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OFFICIAL
HANDBOOK

1928-1929

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
W. S. BODY,
Chief Clerk, Town Clerk's Office.

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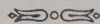
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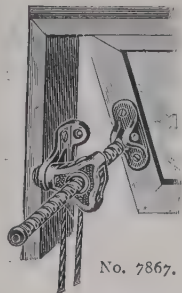
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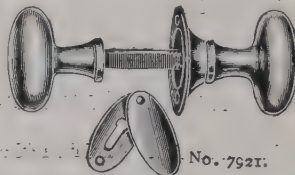


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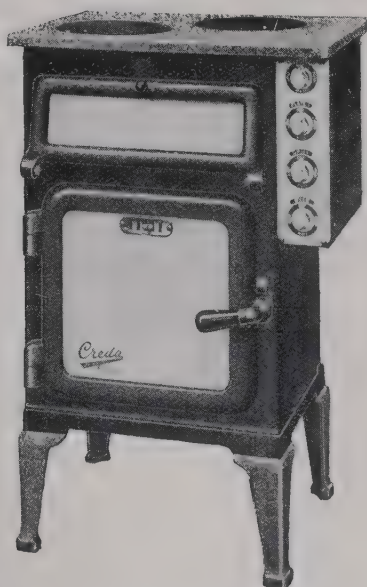
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FOREWORD.

A YEAR ago my predecessor wrote a few words of introduction for a volume entitled "Birmingham and Its Civic Managers." The welcome given to this interesting account of the government of the City, through the City Council and its committees, has encouraged the production of the present volume, "The City of Birmingham Handbook." This official Handbook gives a general view of the municipal affairs and traces the evolution of civic administration from obscure beginnings up to the vast and complex system which exists to-day.

Our object of the publication is to provide an accurate source of information for visitors to the British Industries Fair, and to enlighten inquirers concerning the facilities for trade and industry which the City offers. But I hope that the story which it enfolds will make an even wider appeal. Within the pages of this book will be found an epitome of that rapid development of local government, which has been a distinguishing feature of the domestic history of England during the last hundred years. The story is not finished. Those who may be hoping to be actors in succeeding scenes may profit by the study of this record of the past.

Wynd Kerrick

Lord Mayor.

February, 1929.

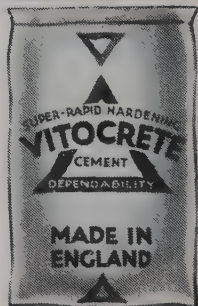
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INTRODUCTION.

FOR some years the need for a handbook such as this has become increasingly apparent. The reception accorded to "Birmingham and Its Civic Managers" twelve months ago, has encouraged the writer to believe that the publication filled a hitherto unoccupied niche in the literature of the city.

The civic undertakings have in these days attained such immense proportions that, but for the co-ordinating influence of a medium such as this, many of Birmingham's municipal achievements would be lost sight of.

The municipal progress of a community is reflected upon the prosperity of its industrial interests to a larger extent than is generally appreciated, and in the many enquiries received from firms contemplating establishing factories in Birmingham, the condition of the City's undertakings and their capacity for service supply is a subject of paramount importance.

It does not, however, come within the province of the present publication to describe Birmingham's civic services from the purely industrial standpoint, a brochure has recently been prepared for that purpose. "The City of Birmingham Handbook" is primarily intended for the information of visitors to the City during the British Industries Fair, and to enable the Corporation to have in convenient form particulars of its undertakings and services to forward in reply to enquiries from all over the world.

A secondary consideration that has led to the publication of this book is the need for manufacturers to become acquainted with the Corporation's activities; not only those activities immediately affecting their industrial welfare, but also those which contribute to the efficiency and physical fitness of the worker.

Birmingham's vital statistics are extremely favourable, and the public health is but one of the instances which contribute to the City's industrial eminence. In the following pages, some stress is laid upon the educational facilities offered in Birmingham, and they are not unworthy of the attention of the discriminating manufacturer. Further, it will be gleaned from the appropriate section that Birmingham has built more houses for its working population than any other authority in the country. The City's estates represent in the aggregate an area as extensive as a good-sized town, and in considering the number of houses erected, it must not be overlooked that throughout the Corporation's housing schemes, town planning principles have been strictly adhered to. New thoroughfares have been constructed to meet the needs of new areas, while wide arterial roads have conferred immense benefit upon the industrial no less than residential communities.

"The City of Birmingham Handbook" is not, however, intended to be a work of reference, and if figures occasionally insinuate themselves, it is hoped that their presence will not detract from the idea that the book is to be read, and not placed on a high shelf amid a litter of publications more distinguished by verbose abstruseness than live interest.

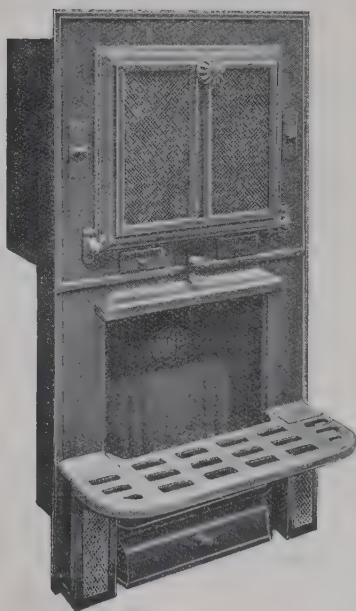
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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1928—1929.

SECTION I.

HISTORY & CIVIC ADMINISTRATION

A Market Town

A Capital of Industry

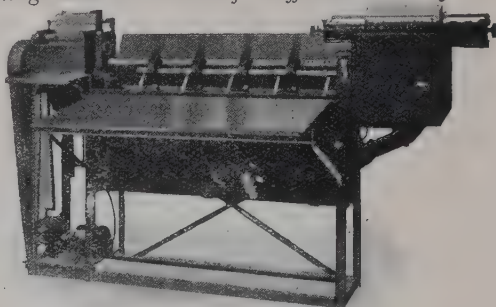
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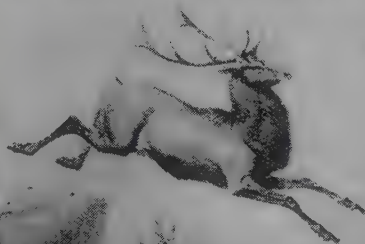
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A MARKET TOWN.

WHILE Birmingham's history may be said to have commenced in 1084, when its existence is recorded in Domesday Book, there are very good reasons for supposing that the hamlet which became the second city in England was created in the wooded midlands of Britain centuries before the Norman coveted this island.

Hutton, the Birmingham historian, believed that there was "the highest probability that Birmingham produced her manufactures long before the landing of Cæsar." That, obviously, was pure conjecture, but it is a fact that Ryknield Street, the Roman highway which passed through Worcester and Droitwich and went on through swamp and forest to Etocetum on Watling Street and the north, intersected the present area of the city. There is an Icknield Street in Birmingham to-day, and the route of Ryknield Street is still discernible in areas where new thoroughfares have not wiped out all traces of the old. Discoveries of Roman coins and ornaments in Birmingham substantiate the claim, although efforts made by enthusiasts more distinguished by local patriotism than archæological learning to identify the first Birmingham with the Roman "Bremenium" still await confirmation.

In the Days of Offa.

During the Roman occupation the site of the future Birmingham formed part of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and when the kingdom of Mercia arose the land was included within its domains. Cannock Chase, to the north of the present city, and the royal park at Surton Coldfield, formed part of the hunting grounds of the ancient Kings of Mercia, some of whom have left on the face of the countryside evidences of their warring which the wind and rain of fifteen centuries have not obliterated nor the onward march of progress trampled underfoot.

Legends have lingered with us from Alfred's day. The story that the King passed through the town and stayed at Swanshurst the night before he defeated the Danes at Aescesdun still persists. The Abbess Ethelburga, a daughter of King Alfred, is believed to have founded the fine old church at Yardley which bears her name.

Evidence abounds of the comparative importance of the area of the present city of Birmingham in Anglo-Saxon days, and many localities derive their names from the patronymics of their Anglo-Saxon colonists. The name of Birmingham is indeed thus derived; it was simply the *ham* or home of the family of the Bermings, who were the *ing* or *iung*, that is to say, the followers or race of Berm. The names of many such Anglo-Saxon families in the district are similarly preserved, and while these prove the antiquity of the city it must not be forgotten that even in the heart of the twentieth century Birmingham there are still place names supposedly derived from purely British sources.

Bermingeam and Domesday Book.

In the history of England it is but a short span from the days of Alfred to the Norman Conquest, when Domesday Book reveals that "Richard holds of William (Fitz-Ansculf) four hides of land in Bermingeam. The arable employs six ploughs ; one is in the demesne. There are five villeins and four bordars and two ploughs. Wood half a mile long and four furlongs broad. It was and is worth 20s., Ulwine freely held it in the time of King Edward." The Richard to whom the quotation refers was probably the first of the powerful de Bermingham family which gained distinction in this and other lands in after years. Ulwine, who held the land until the death of Edward, was a Saxon.

Domesday Book records that at the time of the survey there were five freemen workers and four of a somewhat lower social status. Allowing ten for the family of Richard, who held the land, and assuming that the nine men referred to were heads of families, it may be computed that the population of the place towards the end of the eleventh century was between fifty and sixty. To-day the estimated population of Birmingham is 976,500.

Market Rights Secured.

A hundred years after the Norman Invasion, King Henry granted Peter Fitz-William, Sewer of Dudesley, and Lord of the Manor of Bermingham, the right to hold a weekly market. The privilege undoubtedly influenced the early development of the township and placed Birmingham in an enviable position among the neighbouring villages.



THE BULL RING.

From a painting by David Cox in the Birmingham Art Gallery.

When Domesday Book was compiled, Aston, which is now one of the twelve Parliamentary Divisions comprising the borough of Birmingham, was a place of much greater importance than its neighbour, and was considered just five times the value of Birmingham. The granting of market rights to Peter de Bermingham, however, gave Birmingham a great advantage over Aston; it is not impossible that had Godmund of Aston secured the privilege instead of Peter de Bermingham, the name of the present city would have been Aston, and Birmingham would have meant no more to the world than Aston does to-day.

At the time market rights were granted, the Lords of Birmingham had their castle "scarce a bow shot from the church south-westwards." The church referred to was, of course, St. Martin's, and while all traces of the moated castle have been swept away, the existence of Moat Row and Moat Lane serve as a reminder that Birmingham is a city of no mean story.

Richard Cœur de Lion is believed to have visited Birmingham in 1189, ostensibly to conform the market rights, although it would seem possible that the urgent need of money for the Crusades was not unconnected with the distinction.

The Whitsuntide Fair.

In 1251 Henry III. granted an additional charter which revised some delayed privileges and granted others, among them being the right to a four days at Whitsuntide, which was to begin on the eve of Holy Thursday. To the small town of the thirteenth century the Whitsuntide Fair would create as great an interest in the neighbourhood as does the annual British Industries Fair of more recent years. The medieval fair which struggled down the hill from the Tolbooth into Digbeth, and possibly along the High Town and its neighbouring thoroughfares, has its counterpart in the colossal exhibition at Castle Bromwich, and the progress of the centuries is nowhere better illustrated.

The story of the purchase from the Lord of the Manor of the market rights in the town is included in the appropriate chapter. The comparatively small sum of £12,500 paid over a hundred years ago to secure the rights shows the vision of Birmingham's oft-despised "Street Commissioners," and the purchase saved the city incalculable expense in later years.

The De Berminghams.

In addition to its market it would appear that Birmingham owes its Parish Church to the de Berminghams. The proximity of the church to their manor suggests that its situation was not accidental. Throughout the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Birmingham's Lords of the Manor were of a powerful family, which played a not inconspicuous part in England's history. William de Bermingham was at the side of Simon de Montfort when he created the first representative form of government, and died with him at the Battle of Evesham in 1265. The failure of Montfort's insurrection led to the confiscation of the de Bermingham property, but it was redeemed by the dead man's son, the third William, who followed in the train of Edward I. in his French wars, and in 1297 was taken a prisoner to Paris. It would seem that one of the four tombs of the de Berminghams in the Parish Church of St. Martin's belongs to this William, who died in 1306. Upon the tomb is an effigy of a knight in armour, and on the shield may still be seen the bend of five lozenges which to-day forms a distinctive part of the city's arms.



BIRMINGHAM. FROM THE DOME OF ST. PHILLIP'S CHURCH, IN 1831.

(From the picture in the Birmingham Art Gallery).

This de Bermingham was probably one of the founders of the Priory, or Hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle. In 1285 he gave ten acres of land, which afterwards he increased to thirty-two, the Lord of the Manor of Aston gave ten acres, and Ranulph of Rugby gave three acres "for one priest to sing Mass daylie therein for the souls of the Founders for ever." The Priory thus founded stood for more than two hundred years, but in the twentieth century the Upper and Lower Priory are the only reminders we have of the Priory, across the grounds of which they were built. The Priory was suppressed during the reign of Edward VI., and even the chapel was seized although it was reported that "the towne of Byrmyngheam hathe but one Parishe Church and there is a great multytude of people whych in tyme of plage the inhabitants of the same doe much resort to the same chapell for dyvyne servyce."

Birmingham has unfortunately discarded many of its ancient street names in the more recent years. When "steel houses" were erected in Birmingham about two hundred years ago (before the days of Lord Weir) the thoroughfare in which they were built was renamed "Steelhouse Lane." While its present name is perhaps more appropriate to an industrial centre, Birmingham lost in the rechristening a picturesque reference to its Priory. "Prior's Conygre Lane" in the centre of Birmingham would, perhaps, invite risibility among the facetious, but the former existence of the Prior's Conygre, or rabbit warren, on the site of a modern industrial area illustrates the gradual evolution of the city from an obscure manorial estate to a capital of commerce.

To Attend the King into Gascoin.

The fifth William de Bermingham in 1324 raised "four hundred foot soldiers within this country, except the towns of Warwick and Coventre, and (armed) them for the defence of the realm; and likewise the same year, knights, esquires and other men at armes to attend the king into Gascoin." In 1327 this William was summoned to Parliament and styled Lord William de Bermingham. According to the Subsidy Rolls compiled in that year, all persons possessed of over ten shillings were taxed to 1-20th of their movables for the defence of the realm against the Scots. It is learned that in Birmingham seventy-five people were so taxed in 1327, and that the tax produced the sum of £7 os. 6d. A few years later, in 1344, Sir Fouk de Bermingham was away in France with Edward III. and both he and his immediate successor, Sir John de Bermingham, were returned to Parliament on several occasions.

The last of the de Berminghams was born in 1497, and became the ward of Edward Sutton, Lord of Dudley. It is learned that in 1528 Edward Sutton complained to the Lord Chancellor, Cardinal Wolsey, that Edward de Bermingham had been concerned in a robbery from one of his tenants. In the following year Edward was deprived of the Manor, and in 1532 was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he remained in custody until 1536. It is observed from an Act of Parliament that "Edward Byrmingham Esquire is and standeth lawfully indetted to our Sovereign Lord the King in diverse grete summs of money; and also standeth at the mercy of his Highness for the same Edward is at this present convicted of felony." In defence of de Bermingham it may be added that Dugdale refutes entirely the accusation, and suggests that John Dudley, afterwards Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, deliberately engineered the charge; evidence as to this is lacking, however, but the fact remains that Dudley became Lord of the Manor a few years afterwards. To round off

the story, let it be added that Northumberland was beheaded when Mary followed Lady Jane Grey's brief reign. It may be recalled that Guildford Dudley, the son of the new Lord of the Manor, married Lady Jane Grey, and with her was executed after Mary came to the throne.

The Gild of the Holy Cross.

Between 1392 and its dissolution during the reign of Edward VI, the Gild of the Holy Cross had played a very important part in the early industrial growth of Birmingham. In the thirteenth century it was enacted that no land should be given to the Church unless under special license; when, therefore, in 1382, the inhabitants of Birmingham desired to give certain properties to St. Martin's Church they had to obtain permission to do so from King Richard II. Ten years later it is learned that the letters patent had not taken effect, and the "Bailiffs and Commonality of Bermyngeham" prayed for permission to found "The Gild of the Holy Cross." The Gild then came into being and flourished until Henry VIII. gave instructions for it to be suppressed. At that time the income from the Gild was £31 2s. 10d., and the yearly expenditure about £29 os. 2d. Besides the ministrations of the priests in the parish church "there be dyvers pore people ffounde, ayded and suckared of the seyde Gylde, as in money, breade, drynke, coles, and when any of them dye thay be buryed very honestlye at the costes and charges of the same Gilde, wt. dyrge and messe, according to the constitutions of the same Gilde."

Henry VIII. died before the dissolution of the Gild, and in the first year of the reign of Edward VI. a second report was prepared. In addition to its numerous purely charitable activities, it is learned that the Gild maintained "two greate stone bridges and diuers ffoule and dangerous high wayes; the charge whereof the town of hitsellfe is not able to maintain." The report points out the necessity for keeping the roads in good condition, and continues, "the said towne of Byrmyngham ys a verey mete place, it is necessarye that there be a ffree schoole erect theare, to bringe uppe the youthe, being boathe in the same towne and nigh thereabout."

Despite so favourable a report, the Gild came to an end. The people of Birmingham did not, however, meekly submit to the spoliation of its Gild, and a year before Edward VI. died a petition was addressed to him praying that a Free Grammar School be established with the estate which formerly belonged to the Gild of the Holy Cross. Estates worth £21 per annum were accordingly returned, and thus was founded in Birmingham the King Edward High School Foundation. As Mr. R. Cary Gilson, the late headmaster of the school has pointed out, although two priests were attached to the chantry at St. Martin's Church, and one of them may possibly have acted as schoolmaster, there is no evidence to support the view that a Grammar School existed in Birmingham prior to the Edward the Sixth Foundation. If the negative presumption is admitted, then of the many schools of Edward the Sixth scattered up and down England the Birmingham school is the only one that can claim to be actually founded by the boy king, in that it was a new educational foundation and not a reconstitution of a previously existing school.

In the Days of Elizabeth.

In consequence of the attainder and conviction for treason of the Duke of Northumberland, in 1553, a Survey of Birmingham was taken by royal command, the original of which was brought to light towards the end of the last century. The survey shews that the total sum of "Birmyncham forren "

was £61 os. 22¾d. and six barbed arrows. The Manor or borough of Birmingham which comprised the portion of the town near the Manor house, £16 10s. 3¼d. and 2lb. peeper, 1lb. cummin, one barbed arrow and two red roses, with 2s. of increased rent. That sum included 6s. 8d., which is shewn as "the profits of the Fair there in ordinary years." It will be observed that the importance of the town has advanced, and evidence is accumulating that Birmingham is discarding its agricultural interests.

Birmingham was not incorporated until 1838, and this fact undoubtedly accounts for a good deal of its rapid industrial development. While incorporated towns were hampered by charters which prevented other than freemen, or those who had served an apprenticeship in the town, from engaging in business, Birmingham was enabled to attract skilled artisans who were forbidden to trade in the incorporated towns. In considering the causes for the rapid development the town in later days, this fact must not be overlooked.

A Good Market Towne.

In 1538 John Leland, who was commissioned by Henry VIII. to travel through England and report upon "antiquities and peruse the libraries of all cathedrals, abbeys, priories, colleges, etc.," passed through Birmingham. The record of his visit quaintly describes the place in the sixteenth century. "I came through a pretty street or ever I entered into Bermingham townne. This street, as I remember, is called Dirtey (i.e., Deritend). In it dwell smithes and cutlers, and there is a brooke that divideth this street from Bermingham, and is an Hamlet or Member belonging to the parish thereby.

"There is at the end of Dirtey a proper chappell, and mansion house of tymber hard on the ripe (bank) as the brooke runneth downe; and as I went through the ford, by the bridge, the water ran downe on the right hand, and a few miles below goeth into Tarne, ripa dextra. This brook, above Dirtey, breaketh in two armes, that a little beneath the bridge close again. This brooke riseth, as some say, four or five miles above Bermingham, towards Black Hilles.

Maintained by Smiths.

"The beauty of Bermingham, a good market townne in the extreame parts of Warwickshire, is one street going up alonge almost from the left ripe of the brooke, up a meane hill, by the length of a quarter of a mile. I saw but one Parrock Church in the townne. There be many smiths in the townne that use to make knives and all mannour of cutting tooles, and many lorimers that make bittes and a great many naylor. Soe that a great part of the townne is maintained by smithes, who have their iron and sea cole out of Staffordshire."

The brook is which Leland refers to, of course, the Rea, which, with its sister river, the Tame, has in recent days caused the city to approve the undertaking of flood prevention works that will eventually involve an expenditure of nearly £2,000,000. "The mansion house of tymber" is to be identified as "The Old Crown House" in Deritend, a hostelry which has the distinction of being the oldest house in Birmingham, having been built about six hundred years ago. It need not perhaps be added that the inn shares with some hundreds of other similar houses scattered up and down the country the doubtful reputation that Queen Elizabeth once slept within its timbered walls. The "proper chappell" has been rebuilt, while the "parrock church" of St. Martin's is not now exactly as Leland saw it four centuries ago.

Smiths, Lorimers and Naylor's.

Interesting though these references are, Leland's record is perhaps more valuable in that while it notes the pastoral beauty of Birmingham it refers also to the busy manufacturing community that was already insinuating itself into the life of the town. A great part of the town even in those days was maintained by smiths, and henceforth Birmingham cannot be regarded merely as a good market town in the extreme parts of Warwickshire. Birmingham had smiths, lorimers and naylor's who in little shop fronts in Deritend, were shaping with their wrought ironwork the destinies of a great industrial encampment.

On the anvil of the artizan a city was taking shape, and in the poor rooms at the back of the smithy a race of craftsmen was growing up.

A CAPITAL OF INDUSTRY.

In the Bodleian Library at Oxford, there is a thirteenth century map upon which Birmingham is the only place in the district marked distinctively and by name. Two centuries before, when Domesday Book was compiled, the town had been considered of much less importance than several of its neighbouring villages, and the slender compliment paid by that early cartographer is treasured by Birmingham folk.

Birmingham does not envy her sister cities their long pageant of historical associations. Coventry may remind us that when in 1347 we sent but four men to the French wars, she sent forty. Warwick has had her castle since the dawn of history, while Lichfield was a Bishopric in Saxon days. A British camp still guards the Malvern Hills, in the shadow of which Worcester has nestled since before the Roman came.

As in the two centuries which followed the Conquest Birmingham had established an ascendancy over its immediate neighbours, so in the sixteenth and succeeding centuries its manufacturing interests were thrusting it forward and contesting the importance of the neighbouring cathedral cities.

But storeyed factories were not known to Birmingham in the sixteenth century, and then, as now, a good deal of the town's prosperity was built up by the individual craftsman. The little forges in Deritend of the smiths, lorimers and naylor's were sending forth their manufactures on packhorse, and this form of transport continued to be used for many years to come.

The Holtes of Aston Hall.

Except for the Irish branch of the de Bermingham's which gained honour and wealth in Ireland in Strongbow's day, the family died out. There were other powerful families in the neighbourhood taking their place, among which were the Holtes, who built Aston Hall during the period 1618 to 1635. The Holtes were proud Royalists during the Civil War, and it is estimated that Sir Thomas Holte lost £20,000 in the king's cause. Charles I. stayed two nights at Aston Hall on his way to meet Essex, the Parliamentary general, at Edgehill in 1642. In the following year Aston Hall was besieged for three days, and a cannon ball which passed through the wall and shattered part of the ornate staircase is still preserved at the Hall. The Corporation acquired Aston Hall and Park in 1864, and the building now accommodates a section of the City's art treasures.

The Battle of Birmingham.

The siege of Aston Hall is not Birmingham's only connection with the Civil War. The town showed a decided sympathy towards the Parliamentary cause, and made 15,000 sword blades for the Earl of Essex, declining with more vigour than courtesy an order from the Royalist forces. In 1643 Prince Rupert came to Birmingham at the head of 2,000 men, probably to avenge the affront, and demanded the surrender of the town. The townspeople could only marshal about 140 musketeers, but it was, nevertheless, decided to resist the Royalist force. Birmingham had no means of defence, and barricades were hurriedly erected. The ensuing fight is described in a quaint tract in the Reference Library which, it may be added, cannot be considered an entirely impartial record. The Royalist cavalry completely routed the defence and looted the town, firing about eighty houses and destroying Mr. Porter's blade mill. The defending force lost about twelve men and the Royalist force some thirty.

While in the light of English history the Battle of Birmingham enjoys little distinction, it serves to illustrate the political tendency and industrial importance of the town at that time. A few years before the event a traveller records "Bremischam inhabited by blacksmiths and forging several kinds of iron utensils," while another writer refers to "Bremicham swarming with inhabitants and echoing with the noise of anvils."

Industrial Development.

After the Civil War, Birmingham added to its sword and pike manufactures and included among its products works in rock crystal, swords and heads of canes, which were reputedly superior in quality and cheaper in price than similar continental goods.



THE WILKES LOCK.

In the Birmingham Art Gallery Collection.

The fire-arms industry was established towards the end of the seventeenth century, and when William III. complained of the necessity of going to Holland for satisfactory fire-arms, Sir Richard Newdigate, who then represented the town, successfully advanced the interests of his constituents. Between 1803 and 1815, Birmingham supplied to the government 1,743,383 muskets, and during the same period no fewer than 5,000,000 fire-arms were manufactured in the town.

By 1750 the diversity of the products of the town had increased and then included every type of buckle. Edmund Burke, in 1777, said in the House of Commons, "I look upon Birmingham to be the great toy-shop of Europe." By "toys" it must be understood that the products referred to were shoe and hat buckles and kindred goods, and the numbers manufactured were immense until 1790, when the fashion changed, with disastrous results to the town. A petition addressed to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York praying them to discourage their gentlemen from wearing "the effeminate shoe-strings" proved unavailing, and one of the town's staple industries died.

The button trade succeeded the manufacture of buckles, and Parliament's prohibition against the making of cloth-covered buttons stimulated the industry; it may be added that the manufacture of buttons is still one of Birmingham's great trades. Hemp and cloth were woven during the eighteenth century, and the mechanical process afterwards perfected by Arkwright was first used in Birmingham.

Eighteenth Century Birmingham.

At this juncture the gradual development of the city from other than the industrial point of view may conveniently be considered. Westley's plan of Birmingham of 1731 shows the extent to which the town had grown. The site of the manor house of the de Berminghams had not then been built upon, and the moat was still there. Nearby were the Corn Market and shambles, while at the top of the hill the Tolbooth, the precursor of the Council House, effectively blocked the junction of the High Town and New Street. The market spread along the High Town (now the Bull Ring) and the Beast Market (High Street). The Old Cross and the Welsh Cross were then standing, while the Grammar School of King Edward VI., founded as we have seen from the estate of the Gild of the Holy Cross, was a dignified building in New Street. A little further on was a cherry orchard, the location of which is still preserved in the name of Cherry Street.

Although Birmingham had already reached some eminence in the industrial world, the town retained many of its old associations, and from contemporary illustrations there is little to indicate that Birmingham was not a flourishing market town with one or two lesser industries introduced to occupy the time of those inhabitants who were not engaged in agricultural pursuits and buying and selling.

The prosperity of the town during the eighteenth century is illustrated by the pretentious buildings which had come into being. The nonconformists, who formed a good proportion of the town's inhabitants, had built meeting-houses, and St. Philip's Church, now the pro-Cathedral of Birmingham, was built in 1711. The General Hospital was being constructed during the years 1765 to 1779, while the Blue Coat School, which has recently been acquired by the Corporation, was founded in 1721.

It is known that a coach was running between Birmingham and London in 1679, and there may have been a service before that date. "Flying coaches" were introduced in 1750 which did the journey to London in

two days, taking just twenty four times as long as the modern two-hour express. In 1741 Aris's "Birmingham Gazette" first appeared, an earlier periodical, Warren's Journal, to which Samuel Johnson had contributed, having come to an untimely end eight or nine years before. The Birmingham Library was founded in 1780, and means of communication were vastly improved by the construction of the Birmingham Canal in 1769, and the establishment of a post six times a week. The far-reaching effects of the passing of the Lamp Act in 1769 are described in the chapter upon the history of municipal government in Birmingham.

Baskerville and Priestley.

Birmingham men of the eighteenth century have left their mark not only upon the annals of this country, and the results of their activities have achieved world-wide fame. The name of Baskerville is known throughout the printing world, and his association with the industry is perpetuated in a distinctive type fount. The first book he published, an edition of Virgil, was considered "one of the most finished specimens of typography." In designing the type then used, Baskerville "spent many years and expended £600 before he could produce one letter to please himself and many thousands before the shallow stream of profit began to flow." Baskerville was elected printer to the University of Cambridge, and the appointment enabled him to print further fine examples of his craft which to-day are known to collectors the world over.

Dr. Priestley, who discovered oxygen, came to Birmingham in 1780. He had by that time achieved a considerable scientific reputation, and attained some notoriety for his nonconformist opinions. While, as Sir Oliver Lodge reminds us "never does Priestley approach the level of Faraday or James Watt," it must not be forgotten that he discovered nitrogen, nitric oxide, nitrous oxide, hydrochloric acid, ammonia, sulphurous acid, oxygen and certain other gases. He also discovered that plant and vegetable life gave off oxygen. By reason of his religious opinions, Priestley was harried from Birmingham, and after spending two or three years in London went to Pennsylvania, where he died in 1804.

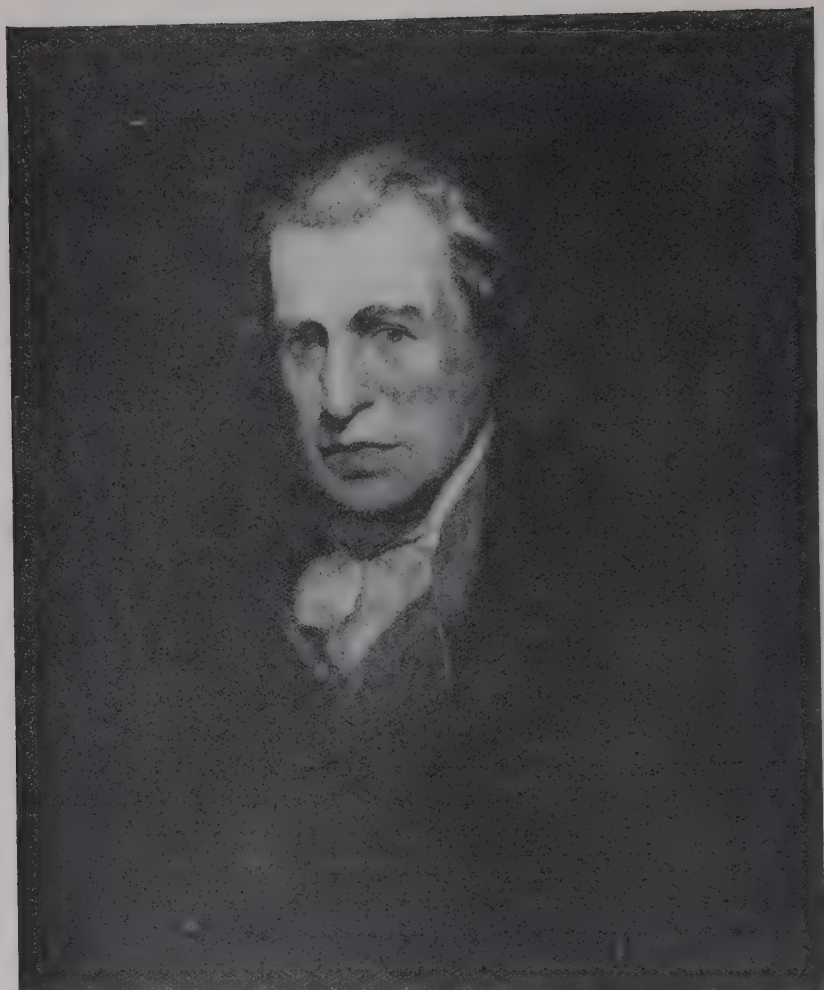
Watt and Boulton.

The partnership of Watt and Boulton is undoubtedly the factor which more than any other contributed to the development and industrial reputation of Birmingham in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Watt, as every schoolboy knows, invented the steam-engine, and, having no funds to develop his invention, he obtained the help of Dr. Roebuck, the founder of the great ironworks, and Matthew Boulton, of the Soho Foundry. A series of misfortunes brought Watt into closer contact with Boulton, and eventually they became partners in the construction of steam engines.

While the eminence of Watt may to some extent have deprived Boulton of his just fame, it must not be forgotten that, without Boulton's help, Watt quite probably would never have been enabled to develop his patent. Further, while the manufacture of the first steam engines gave the Soho Foundry a reputation which assured its position in the history of industry, Boulton's achievements include other revolutionary developments.

The Soho Foundry.

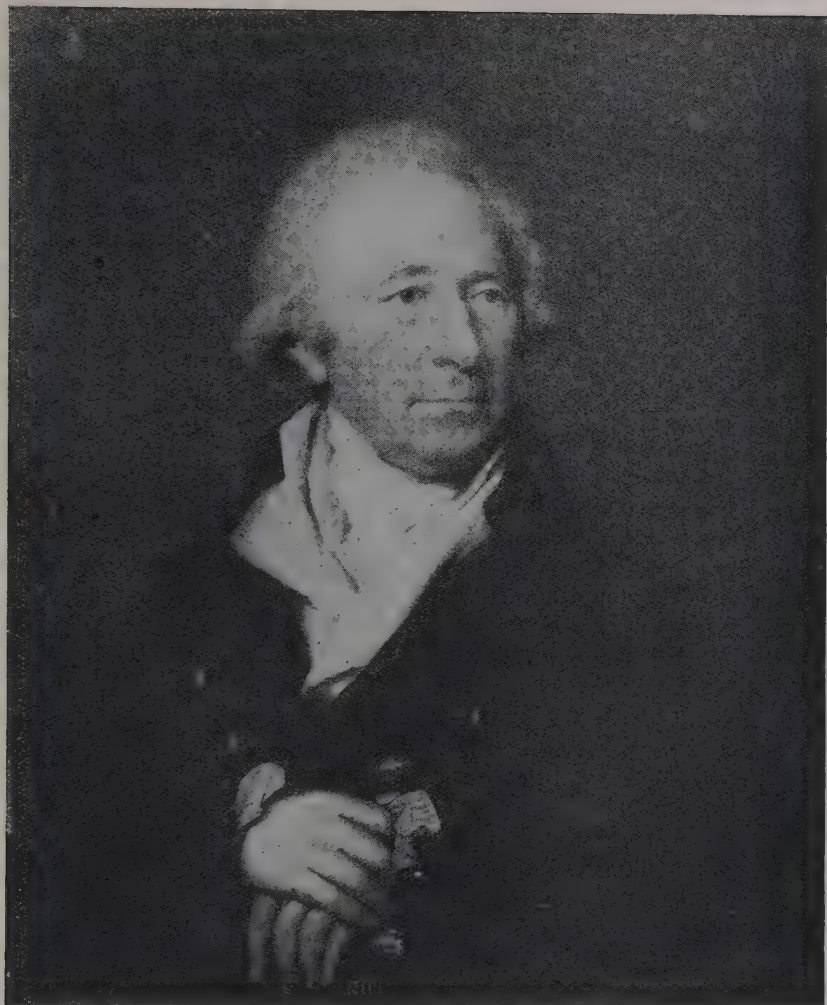
A prejudice against the cheaper types of Birmingham products, or "Brummagen ware," had been growing during the first half of the eighteenth century, and Boulton set to work to dispel the detrimental allusion. With



JAMES WATT.

From the portrait in the Birmingham Art Gallery

such success were his efforts attended that by 1774 the firm employed no less than one thousand workpeople, "not only in the fabrication of buttons, buckles, boxes, trinkets, etc., in gold and silver, and a variety of compositions, but in many other arts long predominant in France, who lose their reputation on comparison with the products of this place." Probably the base coinage previously manufactured in the town was chiefly responsible for the description of "Brummagen ware," and its manufacture had almost come to be regarded as a recognized branch of trade. It has been estimated that at that time half the coinage in the country was bad, and that thirty-six shillings-worth of bad coin could be purchased for a pound. Boulton has said "there is nothing in which I ever engaged with so much ardour as that of bringing to perfection the art of coinage in the reign of George III., as well as checking the injurious and fatal crime of counterfeiting." Between



MATTHEW BOULTON.

From the portrait in the Birmingham Art Gallery.

700,000 and 800,000 coins were struck each week at the Soho Foundry, and new machines were perfected from which those at present in use for minting scarcely differ.

The Industrial Revolution.

Boulton's reputation and his influence upon the industrial development of his native city are seldom appreciated adequately, and it is often forgotten that the foundation of the Soho Foundry marked the real beginning of the Industrial Revolution in this country. The efficient organization and systems of specialization which are now a distinctive feature of the modern factory first saw the light of day in Birmingham, and Soho came to be known as "one of the best schools of skilled industry in England." The influence

of the Soho Foundry is still felt in Birmingham, and the reputation for craftsmanship in Boulton's day has become a tradition which later generations have worthily carried on.

Besides Boulton and Watt, the name of Murdock is remembered in connection with the Soho Foundry. Like Watt, he was born beyond the Tweed, and was twenty-three years old when he came to Birmingham in search of work. Boulton, appreciating his value, set him to work, and by 1792, fifteen years after he came to Birmingham, Murdock had invented lighting by gas. In 1802 the façade of the Foundry was so illuminated to celebrate the Peace of Amiens.

Throughout the eighteenth century Birmingham had shown phenomenal development, and its population had increased from 10,000 to 70,000 during that period. The numerous heaths around the town, which to-day are only remembered in the names of certain of the suburbs, were then still green, but the industrialisation of the centre was fast spreading outwards and the "heaths" were soon to be forgotten in all but name.

Jewellery and Pens.

The metal industries had shown great progress and "brass-houses" were first built in Birmingham about 1740. Since 1773, when Matthew Boulton petitioned for its institution, Birmingham has had an Assay Office, and even in that year the jewellery trade was showing some indication of its great future. It has been recently estimated that half the country's produce of gold and silver goods first sees the light of day in Birmingham, and the city to-day employs no less than 80,000 persons in the jewellery and dependent trades, a greater number than any other city in the world.

The pen trade is one of Birmingham's oldest industries. Steel pens were made 200 years ago, when as much as five shillings was paid for a single nib. Machine pressed nibs brought about an important change in 1830, and since that date the trade has shown such expansion that to-day Birmingham is probably the greatest pen-making centre in the world.

Guns, Bedsteads and Motors.

Before the middle of the last century all guns were manufactured by laborious manual processes, and the introduction of automatic machines led to great economy and increase in production. When the Government factory at Enfield was established, a great company was formed to retain a proportion of the gun making trade in Birmingham. The extent of the industry may be gauged from the fact that during the late war a single firm manufactured 10,000 rifles and 2,000 Lewis guns per week. It may be added that a Birmingham gunsmith invented the breech loading gun and another, over eighty years ago, first suggested the expanding principle as applied to muzzle loading guns, while in the years of the war the famous Mills grenade was invented and manufactured in the city in enormous quantities.

It has been suggested that the introduction of the bedstead trade approximately coincided with the accession of Queen Victoria. In 1849, however, there were but eight manufacturers in the whole country and four or five of these were located in Birmingham. To-day there are about sixty firms in the country and no less than fifty are established in the Birmingham district.

In later years the motor and motor-cycle industry has shown great development, and one local manufacturer has the largest one-unit factory

engaged in the automobile industry in the country. The older means of transport have been manufactured in Birmingham for many years, the first railway carriages and wagons being built in 1838.

The Age of Electricity.

The hydraulic jacks which were used at the launching of the "Great Eastern" were made in Birmingham, and until a few years ago a heavy pump made at the Soho Foundry was still in use. In recent days the electrical industry has rapidly developed, and the city's powers of adaptability have nowhere been better illustrated. The screw, nail and rivet industry is one of the older industries which still contributes a great deal to the city's prosperity. Newer industries, such as the production of cocoa and motor tyres, are to-day among the greatest of the interests of industrial Birmingham. One cocoa and chocolate factory in the city has in sixty years increased the number of its employees from about a dozen to several thousands, while the largest firm engaged in the rubber industry has factory premises covering an area of a hundred and fifteen acres, which will ultimately be extended to two hundred and ten acres.

The explosive and ammunition industry is an important one in the city. While the war period was an exceptional one, it illustrated beyond all doubt Birmingham's industrial capacity. In the present connection it may be noted that one Birmingham firm contracted to supply each week 25,000,000 rifle cartridges, 300,000 revolver cartridges, 500,000 cartridge clips, 110,000 18-pounder brass cases, and 300 tons of cordite. During the German offensive in 1918 the output of cartridges reached the colossal total of 29,750,000 per week. When it is realised that in the manufacture of a single rifle cartridge 102 operations are needed, and that the accuracy prescribed in nearly all the finished dimensions is within one-thousandth part of an inch, the extent of the achievement may be better understood.

The Hub of Industrial England.

It has been estimated that in Birmingham to-day no less than twelve hundred different trades are carried on, and the number would appear to be still increasing. From the fifty people living in Birmingham at the time of the Domesday Survey, the population has increased to nearly a million, and the tendency is towards a greater number year by year. The growth of neighbouring towns has shown no diminution in the city's inhabitants, and the time is not far distant when a wide area within a radius of twenty miles of Birmingham will be one huge encampment of industries, interspersed with pleasing residential areas and open spaces. The day of smoke is passing, and gas and electric power are removing the reproach of smoke-laden skies and begrimed houses. The Birmingham of the future will not be the present day conception of an industrial centre. Much could be written of the effect of town planning and factory grouping. It will be sufficient to add that Birmingham's progressive policy in its industrial and civic undertakings will ensure that the eminence that past effort has achieved will be consolidated and made still greater in the future.



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THE EVOLUTION OF CIVIC ADMINISTRATION IN BIRMINGHAM.

UNTIL 1769, when the Lamp Act was passed, Birmingham was ruled chiefly by the Lord of the Manor through his two Manorial Courts. Byelaws for local government were made and local business transacted in the Court Baron; in the Court Leet, certain judicial powers were exercised, stewards to the Lord of the Manor appointed, bailiffs elected to superintend the markets and fairs, and constables appointed to apprehend criminals and maintain order. The affairs of the ecclesiastical parish were administered by the Church Wardens and Overseers, and the Surveyors of Highways were chosen at parish meetings.

The Court Leet and the Court Baron.

The High Bailiff, who was elected in the Court Leet by the Jurors of the Lord of the Manor, was the forerunner of the present day chief inspector of Weights and Measures and, in addition, had to see that order was preserved and that no "unlawful games to the injury of ignorant persons and thoughtless youths" were played. The principal duty of the Low Bailiff appears to have been the summoning of the Jury, while the functions of the Constable and the Headborough (which are described in Section VIII.) were akin to those of the constable of to-day. There were, in addition, Ale Connors, or High Tasters, and Flesh Connors, or Low Tasters. The Ale Connors had to see that the "Publick Brewers and Ale Sellers within the Manor do brew good and wholesome drink," and to prevent "all alehouse-keepers permitting tipling or gaming at their houses by apprentices or others." It was the duty of the Flesh Connors to see that the Food offered for sale was of a sufficiently high standard. In medieval days, tanning formed a large part of the town's manufactures, and the leather was examined by the Searchers and Sealers of Leather.

The Town Commissioners.

The Lamp Act of 1769 created the first regular form of local government in Birmingham, and provided for the appointment of fifty Town Commissioners with powers for "cleansing and lighting the streets, ways, lanes and passages, and preventing nuisances and obstructions therein." The Commissioners employed scavengers, and issued an instruction that the inhabitants should collect and put together the dirt and soil for a distance of twelve feet in front of their premises, so that it would be ready for the scavengers to remove. Further Acts passed between 1769 and 1828 extended the powers of the Commissioners, and it was under the latter Act that power was obtained for building the Town Hall, and a special rate of sixpence was levied for the purpose. The Act of Parliament passed in 1773 increased the number of Commissioners from fifty to seventy-five, and in addition empowered the Commissioners to widen parts of Colmore Row, New Street, Moor Street, and Smallbrook Street. The Act further provided that bull-baiting should not be allowed in the Town, but it may be added that this sport was carried on immediately over the city boundary until it was forbidden by general legislation in 1835. The Hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley were given Commissioners in the year 1791, with

duties similar to those already appointed in Birmingham, while in the Hamlets of Duddeston and Nechells, similar Commissioners were appointed under Acts passed respectively in 1829 and 1845.

Before the Incorporation.

In his paper on "Birmingham City Government," Sir Ernest Hiley described the state of Government before the incorporation of Birmingham. "The powers of the manorial officers were still exercised, justice was administered by county magistrates holding their petty sessions in the town, and the lighting, paving, sewerage, and other sanitary work was in the hands of the Commissioners. It should be stated that these Commissioners were practically a self-elected body. The first list was named in the Act, and any vacancies from death or otherwise were filled by the remaining Commissioners, so that the people had no voice in their election."

The Charter of Incorporation.

In 1716 Birmingham had made a fruitless attempt to obtain a Charter of Incorporation. The Reform Act made Birmingham a Parliamentary



THE BULL RING, ABOUT 1820.

From the drawing in the Birmingham Art Gallery.

Borough with two representatives, and the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835 made provision for municipal powers. In 1837, fresh efforts were put forward to secure the incorporation of the Borough, but unfortunately the question became a party one, and petitions both in favour and against the Charter were presented. A Government enquiry was thereupon held, and two Commissioners came to Birmingham in 1838; apparently the Commission favoured the petition and the Charter of Incorporation was granted in that year. A Mayor, 48 Councillors and 16 Aldermen were elected almost immediately, and the Town Clerk, the Registrar of the Mayor's Court, and the Clerk of Peace were appointed shortly afterwards.

The Town Commissioners no doubt merited a good deal of the criticism that has in more recent years been levelled at them, but in considering their failings, it must not be forgotten that it was the Town Commissioners who built the Town Hall, and who, in 1824, acquired from the Lords of the Manor the market rights of the Borough for the sum of £12,500. The purchase of the Market rights undoubtedly saved the Borough very heavy expense in later years, and it would be difficult to estimate the amount that would have to be paid to secure such rights to-day.

The Charter Assailed.

The Borough was granted a separate Commission of the Peace in the year 1839 ; a Court of Quarter Sessions was established, and the first Recorder was appointed with a Clerk of the Peace and a Coroner. As time went on, however, it became increasingly apparent that the Charter did not give to the Council all the powers they had hoped to possess. Its validity was assailed and made the subject of litigation, and the Charter was not finally established until the year 1842, when it was confirmed by a special Act of Parliament.

The Section in the present book upon the Police Force describes the state of affairs at the time of the Chartist Riots in 1839. The Commission of the Peace had already reported that the police force, such as it was, was "totally inadequate to preserve the peace and protect the property of the Borough at periods of great excitement." While the Town Council agreed with the Magistrates, they contended that funds were not available for the establishment of a Force, and their delay culminated in the Chartist Riots, when it was estimated that during one hour, the rioters did damage to the amount of upwards of £15,000. The local magistrates were not able to deal effectively with the outbreak, and it became necessary for a detachment of London police to be sent to quell the outbreak ; while, after considerable disturbance, they succeeded in their mission, the incident aroused great indignation and it was felt that a town of about 180,000 inhabitants should be capable of managing its own affairs. The Town Council certainly cannot be held entirely blameless, for the Municipal Act had invested them with the control of a Police Force, but they had taken no steps to appoint constables.

The Police Trouble.

The Birmingham riots were discussed in Parliament, and the Mayor made application to the Home Secretary for the loan of a sufficient sum of money to organize an efficient local Police Force. A bill was prepared providing the necessary amount, but by the efforts of a portion of the townspeople, who communicated with Sir Robert Peel, the leader of the Opposition, the Bill was amended so that while it provided for the lending of £10,000 at 5 per cent. interest, provision was also made for the appointment of a Police Commissioner, who was an officer of the Crown, to supervise the expenditure of that sum.

For two years after the election of the Council, the Overseers of Birmingham had refused to levy a rate. In 1841, however, the Town Council succeeded in collecting the rate, while the doubts which had previously existed as to the validity of the Charter were removed by the Charter's Confirmation Act of 1842, and the control of the police force was given back.

But matters were still far from satisfactory ; although the Town Council now maintained the Police Force, the Birmingham Street Commissioners still superintended the clearance and regulation of streets and acted as sanitary authority. Similar duties were carried out by the Commissioners in Deritend and Bordesley, and Duddeston and Nechells, and, in addition, there were three sets of surveyors of highways. The Birmingham Improvement Act of 1851 finally centralised the powers previously held by the eight separate bodies in the Town Council, and this Act formed the foundation of our modern system of government.

Between 1860 and 1870.

While the Council were enabled by an Act of 1861 to borrow money for street improvements, sewerage and the provision of a site for the Council House, the administration of the town cannot be said to have been carried on in an entirely satisfactory manner. As Sir Ernest Hiley has said : " The dominant idea of the party in power was to spend nothing, and therefore to do next to nothing for the improvement of the town, and a stage was reached at which some of the ablest of the citizens held themselves aloof from the Council to such an extent that the Council became a by-word, and an object of aversion and even of contempt."

A New Era in Civic Administration.

The election of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain to the Council in 1869, however, marked a new era in civic administration in Birmingham, and, indeed, throughout the country. Mr. Chamberlain was elected Mayor in 1873, and was twice re-elected to that position. During the period of his office, a complete revolution of civic administration took place which raised the town from a position of mediocrity to one of great prominence in the municipal world. The year 1875 is especially noteworthy, when Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, supported by a Town Council comprising men of outstanding ability, saw with characteristic foresight and courage the potentialities for progressive reform afforded by the period. An ambitious improvement scheme which cost Birmingham £1,500,000 swept away a dense aggregation of insanitary habitations and made way for vast street improvements which gave the town Corporation street and other fine thoroughfares. The gas and water undertakings were acquired in the same year and paid for by perpetual annuities of £58,290 and £54,491 respectively.

The Trading Undertakings.

The new Waterworks Scheme of 1891 brought still larger increases in capital liabilities. It involved the construction, immediately of three, ultimately of six reservoirs in mid-Wales, of an aqueduct 73 miles long, and of a receiving reservoir at Frankley, six miles from the city centre. The engineering difficulties were immense, and the whole scheme, vital to the well-being of the city, is now recognized as a notable example of municipal courage and prudence.

On the other hand Birmingham was behind some other towns in acquiring its tramways and electricity supply undertakings, probably as a result of caution induced by the large and uncertain commitments in other directions. In many towns authority was given by the Corporation for tramway undertakings to be constructed by private companies ; in Birmingham the Corporation themselves constructed the tramways and leased them to companies so that when the leases came to an end, the bulk of the lines fell into the possession of the Corporation.

Birmingham Becomes a City.

The completion of fifty years of steady development was marked in 1889 by Royal appreciation, when Queen Victoria raised the town to the rank of city. It had in the previous year been constituted a county borough by the Local Government Act, and previously, 1884, an Assize town. In 1896 Birmingham received another mark of Royal favour, the Queen conferring the title of Lord Mayor on the Chief Magistrate. The first Lord Mayor of Birmingham was Sir James Smith.

Municipal Progress.

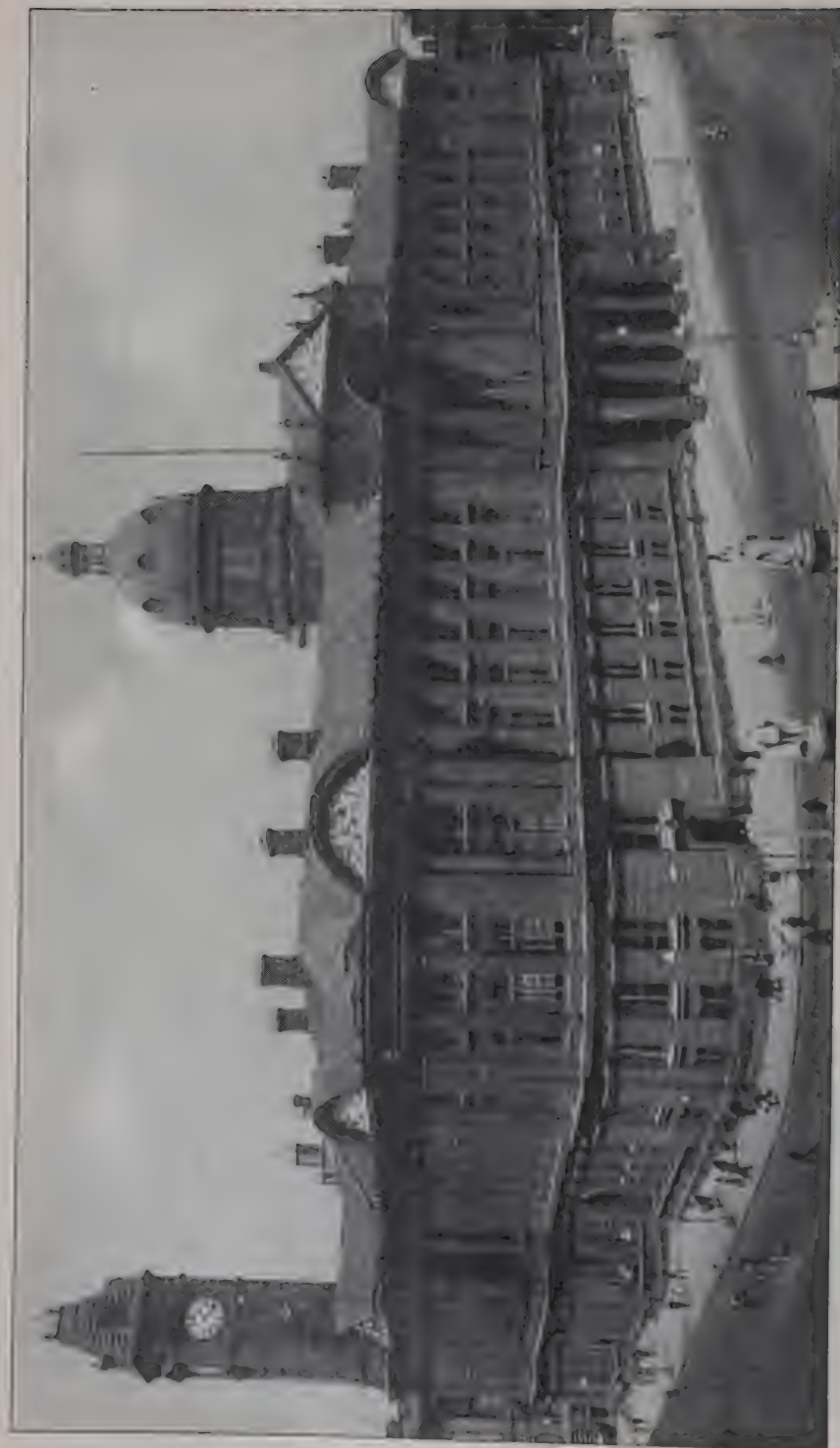
Since the incorporation of the borough, in 1838, which involved the grouping of several hitherto independent communities under a central administration, three extension schemes have been successfully negotiated. In 1891 the area of the City was increased by one-half, i.e., from 8,420 acres to 12,365 acres, by the addition of Saltley, Little Bromwich, Harborne and Balsall Heath. The inclusion of Quinton within the city boundaries, which took place in 1909, although of little importance in itself, is worthy of reference as being the first indication of the movement which culminated in the adoption of the Greater Birmingham Scheme in 1911. By this extension, the borough of Aston Manor, the urban districts of Erdington, Handsworth, and King's Norton and Northfield, and the rural district of Yardley, comprising the majority of the residential suburbs of the city, became an integral part of Birmingham. This scheme, the greatest of its kind ever successfully carried through in England, increased the area of the city to 43,600 acres and the population by 315,000, raising Birmingham to the rank of the second city of England.

In 1928 a portion of the Perry Barr area was incorporated in the city, and this increased the area of Birmingham to 46,687 acres.

The development of the Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board is described in the appropriate section, and it does not come within the province of the present chapter to describe the revolution that has taken place in the methods of administration during the fifty years of its existence. The utility of the present undertaking may be illustrated by the fact that it is proposed to use the effluent from the sewage works in the condensing plant at the Hams Hall Electricity Generating Station, which is at present under construction.



THE COUNCIL HOUSE EXTENSION.



Photograph]

THE COUNCIL HOUSE BIRMINGHAM.

16. 25/10/1914. Birmingham.

The Birmingham Tradition.

The tradition of public service begun by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has been continued during succeeding generations, and the spirit of public service has at no time been stronger than at the present day. What has come to be called the "Birmingham tradition" in local administration is known the world over, and its permanence has been secured by the strong spirit of local patriotism among succeeding generations of the city's inhabitants. When the late King Edward visited Birmingham shortly before his death, he said : "Fortunate is the City which can obtain for its government the spontaneous services of so many able and conscientious citizens. Birmingham is the home of the best traditions of municipal life, and I am well assured that these traditions will be upheld in the future as they have been in the past." The following sections will, it is hoped, indicate that during the last twenty years the progress of civic administration in Birmingham has further indicated the choice of the city's motto, "Forward," is no vain boast, but rather an inspiration that is translated into municipal enterprises which merit and receive world-wide recognition.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CIVIC MANAGEMENT.

THE modern municipality's interest in her citizens extends from the cradle to the grave ; nay, even longer, from the ante-natal clinic to the city cemetery, so carefully looked after when interest in the erstwhile citizen is relinquished. In this chapter it is proposed to outline the various steps Birmingham takes to ensure the comfort and well-being of her people. Subsequent chapters will describe in detail the departmental achievements and activities of the Birmingham City Council, and unfold to local readers a story of civic administration to which they are closely linked, and of which they may justly be proud.

The Citizen's Official Entry into Birmingham Life.

The young citizen makes the first official entry into the affairs of the City through the Notification of Births Act, 1907. Under the provisions of the Act, within thirty-six hours of birth the Medical Officer of Health should be notified of the new arrival into the City's teeming family circle, when maternity and child-welfare visitors are, if necessary, available to advise and make known to the mother of the infant the arrangements that exist for the furtherance of its welfare. The Vaccination Officer will also be an acquaintance at this stage.

If unlucky enough during the early years to suffer from any infectious complaint, the youngster will come into contact with the health visitors and sanitary inspectors, who will endeavour to secure good nursing for the patient and isolation in the interests of the community.

From Five to Fourteen.

At the age of five the young citizen is made aware of the City's educational guardianship by entry into the Council schools. Here medical examination and early treatment by the officers of the school medical service are potent factors in enhancing physical fitness in later years. Provision is made for blind and physically and mentally defective children, and for the deaf, while there are open-air schools for weakly infants.

Much attention is directed nowadays by the Education Committee, through its school medical service, to the physical well-being of the school child, and loads of happy children are transported by the City's trams and

'buses from the congested streets to the playing fields afar, where the air is pure. Civic efforts are supplemented by various leagues for encouraging cricket, football, and swimming, but these are mainly for organized games out of school hours. The Education Committee, on occasions, organizes school camps for Birmingham's junior citizens, as well as games in the parks and evening play centres.

As in other industrial areas, most Birmingham children leave school at fourteen. A general review of the scholars of eleven years of age in the elementary schools takes place annually. Suitable scholars are encouraged to sit for entrance examinations of Council secondary schools, and a generous proportion of free places and maintenance grants is awarded to children who show promise of benefiting by continued education. The Education Committee thus strive to give effect to the provisions of the Education Act "that no child shall be debarred from receiving secondary education through inability to pay fees."

Opportunities for Continued Education.

Where parents are unable to accept the facilities offered for secondary education for their children, admirable opportunities exist for continuation of the pupil's education at the Evening Institutes. The curricula include technical, academic, and commercial subjects, and free places are allotted to all students who join within four weeks from the commencement of the session after they have left an elementary school. No effort is spared to enable young citizens to realise that education does not end on the day they leave school. To point the way to further advancement they are advised that at their service are the City's museums, art gallery, and libraries. The central libraries especially contain an excellent scientific and technical section of great value and assistance to advanced students of the Institutes.

The Juvenile Employment Department of the Education Committee has been greatly extended during the last few years. Children in elementary schools are now required to remain at school until the end of the term in which they attain the age of fourteen years. "After-care" has also developed, and close relations have been established between the schools and industry and commerce, enabling systematic efforts to be made to place youngsters in employment for which by training, health, and inclination they are best suited. During the last few weeks of the school term officers of the department attend to interview children due to leave, and discuss with them not only employment, but also matters affecting their welfare. Special attention is given to secondary school "leaver," and advice and assistance offered in finding suitable business openings.

Artistic, Literary, Recreative Amenities.

Such are a few of the responsibilities the Birmingham City Council shoulders to fit its young citizens in health and education for their careers. At no time in her history has Birmingham so nearly approached the modern conception of a perfect city. For the educational advantages already outlined and for her manufactures and commerce she is justly famed; the City is no less fortunate in her artistic and literary amenities. An art gallery second to none outside London, and a library that contains the most extensive Shakespeare collection in existence, afford boundless opportunities for the adolescent citizen.

The physical and recreative side of adolescent and adult citizenship is not less the constant care of the City fathers than during the period of schooling. The shortage of suitable and available places for open-air

games has to a large extent been overcome by purchase of grounds, ably seconded by generous private gifts, and there are no fewer than 2,860 acres set aside as parks and playing fields. Here the citizen may continue to "play the game" after he has passed from a school team, no matter his particular sport, ample provision being made for football and cricket, tennis, golf, and hockey, or the more leisurely bowls for his sedate days. And without the City boundaries, apart from the "open road" of the countryside, are the Lickey Hills, Warley, and other beauty spots.

Adult Citizenship with Rights and Obligations.

The citizen who has been physically and educationally "fathered" by the City till manhood now begins to acquire legal rights and obligations.

On attaining his majority the male citizen is entitled to have his name inserted in the records of the City as a Parliamentary elector and the new legislation now extends to women all these statutory Parliamentary rights. If he becomes a householder or the occupier of a portion of a house let to him unfurnished by the direct householder, he may, because he is responsible for the payment (as rates) of a proportion of the expenses of the municipal housekeeping, vote for the election of city councillors, which privilege may carry with it an obligation to serve in his turn with the other citizens on juries.

The exercise of the local franchise is admittedly restricted somewhat by the difficulty of becoming householders or even sub-householders owing to scarcity of houses; but the city administrators are tackling the matter, and citizens are being afforded opportunities of becoming not only householders but house-owners, thanks to the facilities and assistance of Birmingham's Municipal Bank.

The City Council's Unrelaxing Care.

Let us leave the young citizen here on the threshold of a new home. The municipality's interest in him is now greater than ever. Besides its parks and playing fields; its museums, art gallery, and libraries; its street lighting, cleansing, policing, its public baths and wash-houses, the City also supplies him in the home with electric light, with gas-cookers and fires, even with a dust-bin from the Salvage Department. It brings a water supply from the hills and valleys of Wales to his door, and provides a road transport system of buses and trams second to none. He must now, as a grown-up member of Birmingham's large family, become increasingly conscious of the City Council's vast activities—of its ubiquitous and unrelaxing care.

The present-day municipality so consistently effaces itself that, were it not for the periodical rate demand, many citizens would be almost unaware of its existence. The service it renders are largely taken for granted, and unless a cause for disagreement arises, the citizen usually remains indifferent to the efforts that enable the administration of the City to proceed so effectively. It is hoped that the work of the various departments described in the following chapters will be widely read, and that it may be the means of kindling an ever-increasing interest in the City's affairs.



Photograph

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

[S. Willoughby Harrison.

THE CITY COUNCIL : WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS.

THE various departmental activities of the municipality are better understood if citizens know what the City Council is and how it functions.

In England and Wales local government bodies consist of Municipal Councils and county and non-county boroughs, Urban and Rural Parish Councils, Urban, and Rural District Councils, and County Councils ; also other authorities elected for special purposes, such as Poor Law or Hospital Administration, or the Drainage Board described in a later page. Area and population are factors that govern their powers and duties.

Public Statutes, Local Acts, and Special Powers.

Birmingham is a county borough, and the City Council exercises its powers under the Municipal Corporations Acts, the Public Health Acts, and many other statutes relating, *inter alia*, to Education, Housing and Town Planning, and Rating and Valuation. Under a number of public statutes and local Acts the trading undertakings—Gas, Water, Electric Supply, and Tramways—are carried on as extensive business concerns, and the Municipal Bank exists by virtue of special powers granted to Birmingham by Parliament.

The City is managed by a Council of 121 members—three councillors from each of thirty wards plus thirty aldermen, and one Councillor representing the new Perry Barr Ward. The Councillors elect the alderman and each alderman is appointed returning officer for a ward. Councillors are elected for three years, one-third retiring each year ; aldermen are elected for six years, one-half retiring every third year. The Council meets monthly, forty members forming a quorum, for the transaction of business, usually arising from reports of its various committees, the Lord Mayor presiding. Three days' notice of the business to be transacted must be given both to the public and the Council, and though the Press are legally entitled to be present at Council meetings the public are only admitted by courtesy.

What a Committee Cannot Do.

Making a rate or borrowing money cannot be done by a committee, but for the effective administration of the City's affairs the Council appoints and delegates certain powers and duties to a number of committees, who are required to report not less than twice a year. This enables the Council to exercise its supreme authority over their actions. The Watch and Asylums Committees are the exception ; their actions, except those involving expenditure, are not necessarily subject to the approval of the Council.

The various committees are Agricultural and Smallholdings, Allotments, Assessments, Asylums, Bank, Baths, Education, Electric Supply, Estates, Finance, Gas, General Purposes, Local Pension, Markets and Fairs, Mental Deficiency Act, Migration and Assistance, Museum and Art Gallery, Parks, Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare, Public Libraries, Public Works and Town Planning, Rating and Valuation,

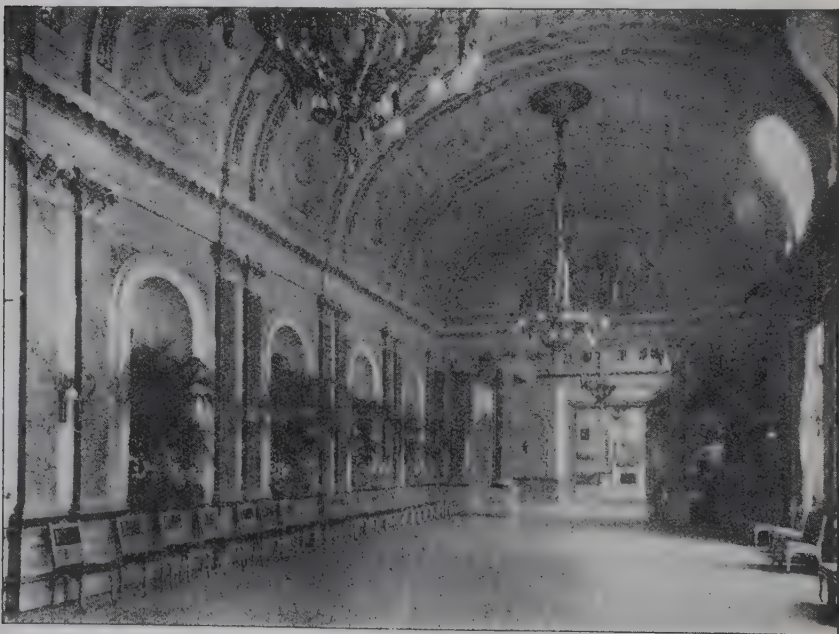
Salaries, Wages and Labour, Salvage and Stables, Superannuation Appeals, Tramways and Omnibus, Watch, and Water.

Each committee prepares annually an estimate of its income and expenditure—estimates that are closely scrutinised and co-ordinated by the Finance Committee so that the Council may judge of their ultimate financial effect. If they are approved a rate is made and levied on the ratepayers to meet the City's financial needs.

Lord Mayor.

A statutory meeting of the Council is held every 9th of November to elect a Lord Mayor—an office that in Birmingham usually rotates in accordance with the political constitution of the Council. He need not necessarily be a councillor or alderman, but must possess the same local government qualifications required by members of the Council, which has not yet gone outside its own members for a Mayor. The Lord Mayor is allocated, during his year of office, the sum of £2,000, office accommodation, and clerical assistance, and a motor car is also placed at his disposal by the Corporation.

In Birmingham the duties of the Lord Mayor are generally more onerous than in other large cities. He becomes a member of every standing committee, and usually attends more committee meetings than any other member of the Council. Within and without the City he is called upon to represent the citizens and to preside at innumerable public, social, and charitable functions. He is the centre of the civic social life, and on behalf of the Birmingham citizens offers hospitality at the Council House to distinguished visitors to the City.



Photograph]

[S. Willoughby Harrison.

COUNCIL HOUSE RECEPTION ROOMS, LOOKING EAST.

Principal Statutory Officers of the City.

Besides the Town Clerk there are four other principal statutory officers of the City—the City Treasurer, who, like the Town Clerk, is appointed under the Municipal Corporations Act, the Medical Officer of Health, the City Surveyor, and the Inspector of Nuisances, the last-named three being appointed under the Public Health Acts. The Recorder is also appointed under the first-named Act, and, though paid by the Corporation, is nominated by the Crown.

The Town Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Corporation, and, being a lawyer, is also the Corporation's legal adviser. Though it is not essential that the position should be held by a lawyer, it is now the practice to appoint town clerks with legal qualifications.

A city like Birmingham makes a great call on a Town Clerk's administrative and organizing ability, as well as on his legal guidance; he is in a large measure a co-ordinating officer, and much depends on him in securing administrative unity in the various departments. He is aided by a deputy town clerk and legal and other trained assistants. His duties involve the custody of all records of the Corporation, including the recording of the minutes of proceedings of the Council and its committees. He cannot, of course, personally record these proceedings, and on his staff are a Clerk to the Council and committee clerks who carry out these duties; the proceedings of three of the trading committees and the Education Committee are recorded by secretaries attached to them.

As Registration Officer the Town Clerk is responsible for the preparation of the register of Parliamentary and local government electors; as Town Clerk he is also responsible for the polling arrangements at both Parliamentary and municipal elections, and is acting returning officer at Parliamentary elections.

Committees without Separate Executive Departments.

Among the many legal duties attached to his office, the Town Clerk has work to perform in the promotion of Local Bills in Parliament and in watching and opposing Bills that may conflict with the City's interests, as well as obtaining Provisional Orders and representing the Corporation at various Government inquiries.

The General Purposes, Salaries, Wages and Labour, Migration and Assistance, and Local Pension Committees have no separate executive, and are administered entirely from the Town Clerk's department. The Land Charges Act, 1925, has made it necessary to establish a separate branch of the department to maintain a Local Land Charges Register of land and premises upon which the City has a charge, and of prohibitions and restrictions enforced by the Corporation.

As the legal adviser of the Lord Mayor and the Council, the Town Clerk is constantly engaged in questions of procedure and preparation of reports on legal and other matters referred to him. In his charge is the Corporation Seal, and he has to prepare, seal, issue, and register the mortgages which follow upon the Corporation's borrowings; he is also clerk to the Asylums Committee of Visitors, clerk to the Education Authority, and solicitor to the Drainage Board, referred to in another chapter.

The Co-ordinating Committee.

The largest and most representative committee of the Council is the General Purposes Committee—previously referred to as having no separate executive department. It consists of the Lord Mayor, the ex-Lord Mayor,

the chairman of the Drainage Board, one member of each standing committee, and two members nominated by the Labour group of the Council. As may be gathered from its constitution, it is a co-ordinating committee, with the duty of observing that instructions of the Council of general application are carried out. It is responsible for the Lord Mayor's and Town Clerk's staff, and is concerned mainly through these staffs with all matters that arise or arrangements made on the occasions of visits to the City by distinguished personages.

The General Purposes Committee prepares for the Council's consideration the bye-laws, standing orders, and instructions to committees by which procedure at its meeting is guided and the duties of the various committees regulated. The provision of accommodation for the administrative staffs of the several departments is its duty, and also the difficult and often thankless task of nominating members for service upon the standing committees and the numerous public bodies, charities, and trusts upon which the Council has direct representation. Not least in importance economically is the work it performs in standardizing and co-ordinating the purchase of goods and stores common to more than one department.

An infinite variety of detail administrative work always awaits this committee in connection with the management and distribution of various charities and prize funds, the publication of a continuous history of the Corporation, and the consideration of Orders under the Shop Acts. Well and truly is their position defined in the first of their "instructions" from the City Council: "To attend to all business and matters referred to it by the Council, and also all business of a general character not entrusted to any of the other committees, and to suggest to the Council from time to time any new business which, in its opinion, is important to the public interest."



Photograph]

[S. Willoughby Harrison.

COUNCIL HOUSE RECEPTION ROOMS, LOOKING WEST.

Pensions and Pensions Officers.

The administration of the Local Pension Committee, established under the Old Age Pensions Act, 1908, is carried out in the office of the Town Clerk. He acts as clerk to the committee, which consists of members of the council only, but the committee does not control the pensions officers, who are appointed by the Treasury. A sub-committee is formed for each of the ten districts into which the City is divided, consisting of a councillor as chairman with several nominated and co-opted non-Council members. As part of its duties the Pension Committee also deals with blind persons under the Blind Persons Act, 1920.

The Widows,' Orphans,' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, is dealt with by the Ministry of Health and not by the Corporation, but enquiries regarding old age pensions and blind persons are promptly and cheerfully dealt with at the Town Clerk's office.

A Distress Committee is appointed under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, with the Town Clerk as its chief officer, to make themselves acquainted with the conditions of labour in their area, and to assist unemployed persons by aiding their emigration or transference to other areas, or by providing or contributing towards the provision of temporary work. Little has been done for some time regarding provision of temporary employment, the activities of the committee being confined to assisting persons to emigrate or remove to areas where work is available.

Salaries, Wages, and Labour Questions.

The Salaries, Wages, and Labour Committee is the recognized central authority for dealing with all matters affecting or likely to affect employment under the Corporation, and its administrative work also is carried on as a section of the Town Clerk's department.

The Corporation are the largest employers of labour in the City of Birmingham, over 24,000 persons being in its employment—about twenty-five out of every thousand of the City's population being engaged in the services of the community. The growth of trade unionism and collective bargaining impressed upon the departments many years ago the necessity for taking steps to deal with its own labour questions on a collective basis, and a joint committee was formed to advise on all questions except such as were subject to outside trade union agreement. This advisory body was eventually raised to the status of a standing committee with authority to standardize conditions of service, and now acts as a sort of board of arbitration between departments on these matters, and its title indicates its function.

This committee's decisions are mainly in form of recommendations, and it is obviously necessary that its composition should be such as commands the confidence of the committees who are called upon to give effect to these decisions. By the nature of its constitution it is enabled to take a detached view, and it has been of inestimable advantage to the Corporation in maintaining amicable relations with its employees. A superannuation scheme is in operation, applying to all classes of permanent employees, and on the social and recreative side the Corporation proves a sympathetic and thoughtful employer.

Citizens Who May Vote at Council Elections.

This outline of the work of the City Council may appropriately close with a brief indication of those citizens who may elect its members under the existing local government franchise. The franchise for men and women

having been assimilated, any person of full age may vote if he or she is registered as the occupying owner or tenant of land or premises, as a lodger in rooms let to him or her unfurnished, or as an inhabiting occupier of a dwelling house by virtue of service if the employer does not reside on the premises.

The husband or wife of a person registered in respect of premises in which they both reside is also entitled to vote if registered.

Compiling the Register of Electors.

The Register of Electors is published annually in October, the qualifying period being the three months ending on June 1st in each year. Having regard to the recent extension of the franchise, under the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928, to all persons—men and women—attaining the age of 21 on the last day of the qualifying period (which, for the 1929 Register only, was the 1st of December, 1928) a special Register will be published on the 1st May, 1929, containing the names of the newly-qualified electors in readiness for the General Parliamentary election which must take place before October, 1929.

The preliminary electors lists are prepared from information obtained from a house-to-house inquiry, such information being verified on forms which are supplied to and completed by the occupiers of dwelling-houses and business premises. The work involved (including the subsequent revision of the lists) is considerable, and necessitates the periodical augmentation of the Town Clerk's staff by temporary assistance.

The responsibility of hearing and deciding claims to be registered and objections to persons already registered, and those claiming to be registered rests with the Registration Officer, the Town Clerk. He must mark in each register, against the names of those liable for jury service, the letter "J" or "SJ" (signifying juror or special juror as the case may be), from which information the Clerk of the County Council has to make up the Jurors' Book for the ensuing year. Claims for exemption from jury service have also to be submitted to and decided by the Registration Officer. He also has to prepare and publish the Absent Voters' List (which mainly comprises naval and military voters).

For neglect or refusal, without reasonable cause, to perform any of his duties in connection with registration, he is liable to a fine of £100.

The cost of registration work, which is considerable, is contributed to in equal shares by the local authority and H.M. Treasury.

The number of Parliamentary electors registered in Birmingham in 1918 was 427,085, of which 165,839 were women, whilst the local government electorate numbered 338,865 (163,462 women). In comparison, those contained in the 1928 register are: Parliamentary electors, 479,131 (201,697 women); and local government electors, 404,428 (195,987 women).

Birmingham returns twelve members to Parliament, a greater number than any other town in England or Wales.

Rating, Valuation, and Assessment.

In Birmingham, the area of the City is the rating area under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925. It has also been constituted the assessment area, and consists of the parishes of Birmingham, Handsworth, and the added area of Perry Barr.

The City Council, as the rating authority, appointed a Rating and Valuation Committee responsible for the preparation of Valuation Lists, and the making and levying and collection of rates. The Town Clerk has

been appointed the clerk to the rating authority and the City Treasurer the chief rating officer, the latter having under his control the rating and valuation staff of the City.

The Assessment Committee, also appointed by the City Council, consists of fifteen members—eight members of the City Council, three nominees of the Birmingham Board of Guardians, one nominee of the West Bromwich Board of Guardians, and three independent persons. The duties of this committee are to supervise, approve, and keep revised the valuation lists, and consider and determine objections to valuations, and the staff of the committee is distinct from that of the rating authority.

The first new valuation came into force in Birmingham on April 1st, 1928, and the existing Poor and Borough Rates levied in the City are merged into a consolidated rate known as the General Rate. For Poor Law purposes the City of Birmingham is within two Unions, the parish of Birmingham being within the Birmingham Union, and the parishes of Handsworth and Perry Barr within the West Bromwich Union.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BIRMINGHAM'S FACILITIES FOR

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HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION II.

THE AMENITIES OF LIFE

The Museum & Art Gallery

The Public Libraries

Parks & Recreation Grounds

The Town Hall

The City of Birmingham Orchestra

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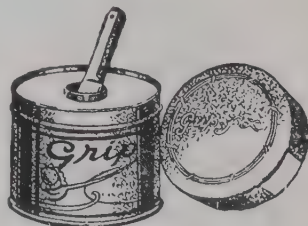
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HARBORNE—Vicarage Road—(9 holes).

COCKS MOORS WOODS, Alcester Lanes End (14 holes)

The courses are open for play on Sundays.

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9 holes (Warley and Harborne)	1	0	0
14 holes (Cocks Moors Woods)	1	3	0
18 holes (Warley, Harborne and Lickey Hills)	1	6	0

Daily Tickets (Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted)	2	0	0
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Season Tickets:

Ratepayers and residents of the City	3	3	0
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Non-ratepayers and non-residents	5	5	0
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For a season ticket available at all Municipal courses, extra charge	1	1	0
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Tuition is given by the golf professionals at a fee of 2/- per hour, plus the charge for an ordinary round of the course (except in the case of season ticket holders).

Score cards	1d.
--------------------	-----

Plan of course	1d.
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Any further information may be obtained from:—

E. S. WHITE,
Secretary, Parks Department
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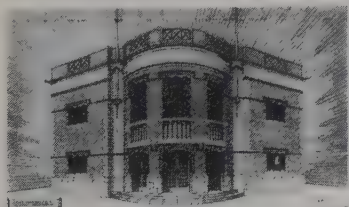
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THE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY.

THE first step towards the formation of a municipal collection of works of art was the presentation in 1864 of a large picture—"Dead Game"—by Edward Coleman, one of Birmingham's earliest painters of note, by a body of subscribers as a donation towards the proposed gallery of art. The Birmingham Society of Arts offered to lend permanently a number of pictures belonging to them, other offers of assistance were received, and as a result a room in the Free Library was made available for their reception, and the Corporation Art Gallery was opened to the public in August, 1867. The collection then consisted of fifty-six pictures, of which about a dozen belonged to the Corporation.

Within five months 34,560 people had visited the exhibition, and during the following year no fewer than 200,000. In 1870 £1,000 was raised and a beginning made towards the formation of a Museum of Industrial and Decorative Art by the purchase of Indian metal work, jewellery, and textiles, Venetian and other glass from the South Kensington Museum. Soon afterwards Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, then Mayor of Birmingham, gave £1,000 for the purchase of further examples of industrial art, and the Guardians of the Proof House presented the Museum of Arms, which, with the exception of the Tower of London and Wallace collections, is unequalled.

Munificent Gifts.

In 1877 the collection was temporarily housed in Paradise Street, and then removed to Aston Hall. The need for a permanent home for the collection in the City became obvious, and a gift of £5,000 from Sir Richard and Mr. George Tangye, and a promise of another £5,000 if donations were received for the same amount, resulted in a fund which eventually reached £23,000 being raised towards this end.

The Art Gallery was completed and opened in 1885, the Tangye brothers presenting their valuable collection of Wedgwood ware. Other generous gifts followed. Twenty-six oil paintings by David Cox were bequeathed by Mr. J. H. Nettlefold; Mr. Joseph Chamberlain presented W. J. Muller's "Prayers in the Desert"; and many valuable pictures were given by others. One of the most important gifts was the first instalment of the Feeney collection of decorative objects illustrating the art of many nations. In succeeding years Mr. Feeney continued to make large additions to this collection.

From the opening in 1885, the permanent collections grew rapidly in number and importance until the galleries became inadequate for their proper exhibition, and it became evident that a new building, or a large extension of the existing galleries, had become necessary. Owing to overcrowding in official departments the Corporation undertook the erection of the Council House extension, with proper accommodation for an Art Gallery in the upper floors, but the actual work had not been commenced when in 1905 Mr. John Feeney died, bequeathing to the City the sum of £50,000 for the erection of an Art Gallery.



Photograph]

[*Ernest H. Fletcher, Moseley, Birmingham,*
THE ENTRANCE, ASTON HALL.

The Feeney Galleries.

The new galleries were opened by Mrs. John Feeney on July 19th, 1912. In addition to the administrative offices the part of the Feeney Galleries then completed consisted of ten picture galleries. Further extension was undertaken almost immediately, and in 1919 six more rooms for pictures and two spacious galleries, which have been devoted to a Museum of Casts and Classical Sculpture, were opened. The corridor or bridge leading to the Feeney Galleries was specially planned for the display of the Burne-Jones and Morris tapestries of the Sangrail and other subjects.

The permanent collections, both of pictures and objects of decorative art, are now so considerable that here it is only possible to give a bare outline of the rooms and mention but a few of the many generous donors to the gallery. The whole of the contents have been contributed by private



THE ART GALLERY.

citizens. The picture galleries contain works of many schools of English painting, but the collection is distinguished by two main features: the important series of paintings, drawings, and studies by the English pre-Raphaelite painters and their friends and followers—Millais, Holman Hunt, Rossetti, Madox Brown, Arthur Hughes, Sandys, Simeon Solomon, and others, together with Sir Edward Burne-Jones, a native of Birmingham; and the very representative collection of works, both in oil and water-colour, by David Cox (1783-1859), Birmingham's greatest landscape painter.

Loan Exhibitions.

After the opening of the Feeney Galleries it was possible to recommence the popular loan exhibitions, which had been suspended for want of space. Since 1912 the public have had the opportunity of seeing collections of pictures by old masters of the Italian and other schools belonging to Lady Jekyll and Lady Horner, the collection of pictures and other works of art belonging to the Earl Beauchamp, the collection of pictures in the possession of the late Right Hon. Wm. Kenrick, exhibitions of works by A. Legros, Sir Alfred East, Sir Frank Short, Sir D. Y. Cameron, Muirhead Bone, Frank Brangwyn, Russell Flint, Eric Kennington, Gwelo Goodman, Albert Goodwin, pictures by Canadian artists from the Canadian fine art section of the British Empire Exhibition, and portraits by members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

Decorative and Industrial Art.

The collections of decorative and industrial art include examples of jewellery, gold and silver work, arms and armour, Limoges enamels, wood, ivory, and stone carvings, decorative iron and steel work, Egyptian and Roman antiquities, textiles, lace, majolica, porcelain, and pottery.

In 1883, a large collection of works of Italian art was purchased on behalf of the committee by the late Sir J. C. Robinson, and that collection has been constantly increased by purchases made by the late Keeper (Sir Whitworth Wallis) both abroad and at home. A sum of nearly £10,000 from the Art Gallery Purchase Fund had been thus expended in extending the collections of decorative art, which has been further enriched by a long list of gifts from private individuals and associations.

Since the Art Gallery was opened in 1885 more than 21,000,000 people have visited it, and more than 431,000 catalogues have been sold. In the earlier days of the gallery, before it had a habitation of its own, three members of the Birmingham Royal Society of Artists, Mr. William Hall, Mr. Allen E. Everitt, and Mr. Jonathan Pratt, acted in succession as honorary curators. On December 2nd, 1884, the Town Council appointed, as Keeper of the Corporation Art Gallery, Mr. Whitworth Wallis, who received the honour of knighthood in 1912 in recognition of services rendered to art, and it is in a large measure due to his great ability and wholehearted services that the Birmingham Art Gallery has attained the high position it occupies to-day. Sir Whitworth Wallis held this position until his death on January 16th, 1927.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

The establishment of a Natural History Museum in Birmingham was first mooted forty-five years ago. The idea received little support, and the town had to remain satisfied with the collection of natural history specimens assembled by Dr. Sands Cox at Queen's College, which later on was handed over to the care of the Corporation, and eventually removed to Aston Hall.

But collectors and enthusiasts interested in scientific education continued to agitate in favour of a public museum. When in 1899 the City Council acquired land for the purposes of the extension of the Art Gallery and Municipal Offices, the success of the agitation was assured.

In 1904 the City Council resolved to allocate the upper floor of the new extension facing Congreve Street for a Natural History Museum, undertaking the maintenance and administration, but leaving the provision of the collections to the generosity and enthusiasm of those interested in the Museum's success.

Notable Gifts.

The principal gifts received during and subsequent to the erection of the Museum were the Blatch Collection of Coleoptera, presented by Sir George Kenrick ; a collection of British birds and foreign birds' skins from Mr. Walter Chamberlain ; the Scott Collection of British and Foreign Lepidoptera, from Mrs. Adrian Hope and Mrs. Farnham ; the Bradley Collection of Hymenoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera, etc., from Mr. A. R. Hollinsworth ; Herbarium of British Plants, from Mr. J. E. Bagnall ; a large collection of British and foreign plants, from the late Sir Benjamin Stone ; and extensive collections of shell, fossils, minerals, birds, and birds' eggs and nests, insects, marine invertebrates, and numerous mammals and miscellaneous specimens.



IN THE ART GALLERY.

The museum forms a department of the Art Gallery, and is in charge of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee, and in 1912 an Assistant Keeper of the Natural History Department was appointed by the City Council. The preliminary work in connection with the arrangement of the collections was heavy, but in July, 1913, some of the rooms were opened to the public,

An Ambitious Scheme.

A comprehensive topographical and physiographical scheme for the arrangement of the whole of the specimens was drawn up by the late Professor F. W. Gamble, F.R.S. It was also intended to have as representative a collection as possible of the fauna, flora, and geology of Birmingham and the surrounding country, so that in the end the museum might contain a complete representation of the natural history of the Midlands.

Lack of space prevented the whole of this ambitious scheme being carried out, as it was found necessary to allocate one entire gallery to the display of nesting groups of British birds as a memorial to the late Alderman C. G. Beale. Four large topographical groups were, however, eventually provided by generous donors, and have proved one of the most popular features in the museum. The "Beale" collection is pronounced by experts to be unsurpassed in quality, comprising forty-two distinct cases, each faithfully depicting the actual nesting site, the whole of the surroundings, foliage, etc., being exhibited after special treatment and colouring.

There is an extensive collection of British and foreign freshwater and marine shells formed by the late Registrar W. H. Whitlock, and a comprehensive series of land and freshwater shells collected by the late Mr. P. T. Deakin and presented by Mrs. Moore. Upwards of 2,000 beautiful botanical drawings, together with microscopic slides and other objects, have been presented by Mrs. T. H. Russell.

A nearly complete collection of British birds (numbering about 1,200), all pictorially mounted, together with nests and eggs to the number of over 14,000 comprises probably the finest series in existence of young nestling birds in their downy plumage. For this valuable gift the City is indebted to the Feeney Charitable Trustees, who in 1924, purchased the collection and presented it to the museum.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

BIRMINGHAM Public Libraries have played a considerable part in the cultural and educational development of the City. Birmingham admits no peer among the rate-aided libraries of the kingdom—it does not claim to possess the biggest, best, and most expensive library system in the country, but it does claim that its collection is the best scale model of the perfect library.

The first Public Libraries Act (1850) enabled authorities to levy a halfpenny rate (increased to a penny by an Act in 1855) for the adaption or erection of suitable buildings and to meet charges for management and maintenance. The purchase of books, however, was not included in the provisions. Birmingham did not at first take kindly to the new idea, and it was not until the example of other towns had stirred the City's pride, and so enabled the Council to proceed with the adoption of the Act, that a Free Libraries Committee was constituted, consisting of eight Council and eight non-Council members. The committee speedily got to work, and presented a comprehensive report to the Council.

The City's First Public Library and News Rooms.

This report was approved by the Council in May, 1860, and the committee immediately proceeded to carry into effect the recommendations they had put forward. The scheme provided for a Central Reference Library, with Reading and News Room, and four District Libraries with News Rooms. The town was divided into Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central and Western Districts for this purpose, and in less than twelve months the first district library was opened in Constitution Hill. The grant of the lease of Adderley Park to the Council, together with premises suitable for use as a library and museum, enabled the committee to open a branch library there early in 1864.

Central Reference and Lending Library.

Birmingham still awaited the erection of central Reference and Lending Libraries, however, and the committee proceeded next to consider the possibilities of providing this accommodation.

Land was obtained and work commenced on the erection of central reference and lending libraries in 1862, and three years afterwards the Central Lending library, which included an embryo of the Art Gallery, was completed, the opening coinciding with the visit of the British Association in 1865. The Reference Library was opened in 1866, also the Deritend branch, and the foundation-stone laid of the Gosta Green Library, which when completed, fulfilled the entire original scheme of the Public Libraries Committee.

Limit of Expenditure Removed.

The committee were sorely tried by the limits the 1855 Act imposed upon them. The penny rate only produced about £4,500, and, after loan charges had been met, only £2,500 remained for the maintenance of six



THE COMMERCIAL AND PATENTS LIBRARY.

libraries and an Art Gallery, and when these demands had been met £125 only was left for additional books and renovations. This state of affairs continued until 1883, when the Birmingham Corporation (Consolidation) Act removed the limit. The rate for libraries prior to the war seldom exceeded three-halfpence in the pound, so any fears that the committee would embark upon a career of reckless expenditure in consequence proved unfounded.

The Shakespeare and Staunton Collections.

In 1864 the nucleus of the famous Shakespeare Collection was added to the Reference Library. On the tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth the Mayor of Birmingham received on behalf of the town a large collection of Shakespeare's works and Shakespeariana, also a sum of £450 for the purchase of further additions to the library. A room was made available for the reception of the collection, which now consisted of 1,239 volumes, and the Shakespeare Memorial Library was opened in April, 1868. In ten years the collection increased to 7,000 volumes. To-day the Shakespeare Collection is the largest in the world, containing 19,500 volumes in forty languages, together with a collection of portraits of Shakespeare and illustrations incidental to the life and work of the poet.

In 1875 the unique Staunton collection of documents and books upon the antiquities and history of Warwickshire was purchased. Of the whole collection only the illuminated Knowle Register for the years 1451-1535 and a few other volumes survived the great fire at the Central Library of 1879, and these afterwards became the first volumes in the new reference Library.

Nearly 50,000 Works of Reference Destroyed by Fire.

The growth of the libraries had been continuous, and by 1878 it had become necessary to extend the central premises. Work on the extension was proceeding when the fire broke out which destroyed the greater part of the contents and reduced the building to ruins. Of the collections in the Reference Library only about 1,000 books were saved of the 50,000 that had filled its shelves.

The fire destroyed the Library on a Saturday. The following Monday morning the Public Libraries Committee met and appointed a sub-committee to consider, in conference with architects, plans for a new building, and arranged for a public meeting of citizens to be held with a view to obtaining contributions towards the restoration of the library. A fund for new books, which ultimately reached £15,197, was initiated; £25,000 was received from insurance companies, and the committee were enabled to proceed with their plans unhampered by lack of funds. Restoration was commenced immediately, and the new Reference and Lending Libraries were completed and opened in June, 1882, amid scenes of great enthusiasm.

Branch Libraries, News Rooms, and Juveniles.

Additional branch libraries had been erected and equipped as opportunities arose, and by 1896 Bloomsbury, Harborne, Spring Hill, Small Heath, and Balsall Heath possessed branch libraries, while the libraries at Adderley Park, Deritend, and Gosta Green had been enlarged to meet the increased needs of those districts.

To-day each library is equipped with a News Room, which contains a representative selection of the English newspaper world and, in the case

of the central and larger branch libraries, foreign and colonial newspapers and other periodicals. The deletion of betting news from newspapers discourages some unwelcome visitors, but every facility is offered to searchers for work, and to facilitate their quest the "situations vacant" columns of newspapers are posted in prominent positions.

The requirements of the juvenile readers are met by the provision of separate juvenile reading rooms, and considerable trouble is taken to obtain and hold the interest of school children in the libraries and their collections. To enable full advantage to be derived from the libraries the Chief Officer of the Education Department is authorized to replace any book lost by scholars or by members of the clubs organized by the after-care department. Parties of school children are conducted over the libraries as circumstances permit, and the rooms opened at the Balsall Heath, Bloomsbury, Erdington, Harborne, Selly Oak, Small Heath, Sparkhill, Spring Hill, Stirchley and Ward End Libraries are a source of continual pleasure to school children.

Contrasts 1861-1928—and Open-Access System.

In 1861-1862 the total issue of books from all libraries was 108,057, while during the year ended March 31st, 1928, the total issue was 3,180,242. In 1861-1862 the total number of books upon the shelves of the libraries throughout the City was 6,288, while in the year ended March 31st, 1928, the complete stock had reached a total of 614,736. It would need a shelf over fourteen miles long to accommodate them. To facilitate the speedy transit of books from branches to the City, or from the Central libraries to the suburban ones, telephones have been installed at each library, and eventually the committee hope to provide a delivery van to expedite transfers.

Introduction of the open-access system is proceeding, and in every instance where it has been installed considerable increases have been remarked. Under the new order the books are closely classified and can be examined by readers, while attention is directed to books that were neglected under the closed system, and the resources of the libraries are thrown open to the public in a manner that was impossible under the old conditions.

Boulton and Watt Collection.

It is fitting that in the City famed for their activities, some memorial should exist to the work of Boulton, Watt, and Murdock, who were the pioneers in the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century. The Boulton and Watt Collection was presented to the City by Mr. George Tangye, J.P. To this collection were added many personal and other interesting objects which had been under the care of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee, and the combined collection was opened in 1911. In 1916 further suitable accommodation for the relics was provided in the Central Library. The exhibit is of unique interest, especially to engineers, and contains the inventors' models and drawings of the machinery which did so much to effect the industrial revolution.

Technical and Commercial.

The Technical and Commercial Libraries in the City are indications of Birmingham's progressive policy. Included in the Commercial Library is a Patents Library that is believed to be, except for the National Patents Library, the finest in the kingdom. It has the distinction of being older than the Reference Library, for in 1855, five years before the Public Libraries

Act was adopted, Birmingham already had two hundred volumes of patents specifications and indexes, and these formed the nucleus of the present Commercial Library in the Council House extension, which has proved of immeasurable value to the business men of Birmingham. It is classified upon the Dewey decimal system, the merit of which is that books upon similar subjects are placed together, and at present 130 directories and all the principal telegraph codes, Parliamentary papers, atlases, trade catalogues, time tables, standard reference books, and trade periodicals find their place upon its shelves.

The Technical Library is an obvious corollary to the Commercial Library, and an efficient section was opened in the Central Library in 1924.

Lantern Slides and Illustrations.

The Lantern Slides Collection, comprising nearly 15,00 slides for loan, is very popular during the winter months. Subjects from witchcraft and demonology to the Pilgrim Fathers are available. These are also arranged according to the Dewey decimal classification, and manuscript catalogues describe individual slides.

The Collection of Illustrations is assuming vast proportions and now contains 80,000 items, and there is a collection of music comprising over 12,000 volumes, 2,000 at the central premises and the remainder at the branches. Developments are taking place in the latter sections, and a representative collection of chamber music is being formed which will eventually be not unworthy to rank with the other series in the libraries.

The Photostat Innovation.

The Birmingham Public Libraries were the first in the country to instal a photostat, by which photographic facsimiles of documents, drawings, graphs, tables, maps, prints, and other matters can be expeditiously and economically produced, and it is anticipated that the innovation will be found of considerable assistance to research and other students.

From small beginnings the Birmingham Public Libraries have grown almost beyond recognition. Over thirty years ago Thomas Greenwood, in his "Public Libraries," writes: "To any one unacquainted with the public libraries of the country a visit to the Birmingham Public Libraries is a liberal education . . . Their ever-extending work is the best of all possible proofs of the utility of the libraries." To-day the City has a library system that is among the best in the kingdom, and one that maintains the proud reputation earlier generations have bequeathed.

PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS.

THE Parks and Recreation Grounds belonging to the City comprise a total area of 2,697 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and consist of thirty-two parks, fifty-four recreation grounds, and nineteen small open spaces.

The movement for providing Birmingham with open spaces commenced in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The first public park to be provided was Adderley Park, which was opened to the public in 1856, and since then the acquisition of open spaces has proceeded more or less steadily.



Photograph]

ASTON HALL.

[*Ernest H. Fletcher, Moseley, Birmingham.*

Adderley Park.

Adderley Park comprises eleven acres, and was acquired in 1855 from Mr. Charles Bowyer Adderley (afterwards Lord Norton) on a lease for 999 years at a nominal rent of 5s. a year. The opening was celebrated by a dinner at which 400 guests were present. Richard Monckton Milnes (afterwards more widely known as the first Lord Houghton) wrote an ode for the occasion, which was set to music by Dr. Belcher, a Birmingham organist, and was sung at the concert which followed the banquet. The original manuscript of his ode is preserved in the Reference Library, together with printed copies published for the occasion. Lord Norton subsequently helped to make several additions to the park.

Aston Park and its Associations.

Aston Park, with its historic hall, was first acquired by a private company and opened to the public in 1858. It was ultimately obtained by the Town Council in September, 1864, when the hall and park were opened to the public for their use and enjoyment for ever.

The fine old hall is the chief attraction at Aston. Built in 1635, it was described by Dugdale, who must have seen it in its pristine newness, as "a noble fabrick, which for beauty and state much exceedeth any in these parts." King Charles I. slept there on the Monday before the battle of Edgehill, in 1642, and the fine staircase, with its broken baluster, was damaged during the three day's siege of the hall by the Parliamentary forces in the December of the following year.

The park is forty-nine acres in extent, and the whole has recently undergone a scheme of reorganization prepared by the Birmingham Civic Society that brings the design and lay-out of the grounds into conformity with the period of the hall.

Calthorpe Park.

Calthorpe Park (thirty-one acres) was acquired from Lord Calthorpe in 1857. It was held on lease up to 1894, when the Corporation obtained the fee simple, the only condition attached to the transfer being that the Corporation should use the land for the purposes of the Recreation Grounds Act only.

Cannon Hill Park.

In 1873, by the generosity of Miss Louisa Ann Ryland—a representative of an old Birmingham family, who had generously contributed towards the purchase of Aston Park—the estate then known as Cannon Hill Fields, at Moseley, was presented to the town. It was converted into a beautiful park, and opened to the public in September, 1873. The donor declined to allow it to be named after her as the Town Council had proposed, and at her desire it was opened without public ceremony.

An extension was effected in 1897 through the liberality of Sir John Holder, Bart., who gave seven acres of land, and by a gift from Lord Calthorpe of another seven acres on the condition that the Corporation undertook the straightening of the course of the River Rea. This latter area includes the "Queen's Ride," which was constructed with the intention that it should form a local "Rotten Row."

Cannon Hill Park is now the principal ornamental park of the City. It includes a garden specially constructed for the use of students in botany, the gift of an anonymous donor. A further extension was made in 1907

by the addition of the large house and grounds, with an area of 2 acres 1 rood 22 poles, near the Russell Road entrance. This was purchased from the Trustees of the late Miss Ryland, and another plot in Russell Road of half an acre was purchased in 1910, and is used as a nursery garden.

The park is now seventy-three acres in extent, and contains the old timbered house, which originally stood in Deritend not far from St. John's Church, known as "The Golden Lion Tavern." Through the efforts of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, this interesting old house, which may have been the Deritend home of the Guild of St. John the Baptist in the fifteenth century, was carefully removed and re-erected in the Park.

Highgate and Summerfield Parks.

In 1875 the Council purchased from the Trustees of Holliers Charity a fine open space extending from Alcester Street to Moseley Road. This land afforded a fine prospect of Birmingham from the north, south, east, or west end, and it was from this neighbourhood that some of the early views of the town were obtained. It was laid out as a public park under the name of "Highgate Park," and opened by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in 1876. It was the first open space to be entirely purchased by the Corporation, and was shortly followed by another purchase—Summerfield Park, at that time a little over twelve acres—costing £9,000. The site was well wooded and park-like in character, and required no immediate expense in laying out, and it was opened eight weeks after Highgate Park. Summerfield Park now covers thirty-four acres.

A Memorable Year.

Four days before the Council authorized the purchase of the first portion of Summerfield Park, and on the same day that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, as Mayor of the Borough, opened Highgate Park, another noble gift was announced from Miss Ryland, forty-three and a half acres of



Photograph]

[Ernest H. Fletcher.

YARDLEY RECREATION GROUND.



Photograph]

[Ernest H Fletcher

COFTON WOODS, THE LICKEYS.

land at Small Heath for a park. This was chiefly agricultural land, and Miss Ryland undertook to contribute £4,000 towards laying out the ground. A portion of the land near the corner of Coventry Road and Tennyson Road eventually became a well-wooded grove. An open-air swimming pool was formed, also a boating pool.

Later on, with a view to preventing the encroachment of brick and mortar on its boundaries, a strip of land on two sides was purchased, and the owner expressed his willingness to give four acres of the land adjoining for a roadway fifty feet wide and bordering the park on the undertaking of the Corporation to bear one-half the cost of the construction of the road. The improvement cost £3,050, towards which sum Miss Ryland generously contributed £2,000.

Conversion of Churchyards and Burial Grounds into Public Gardens.

In 1878, under the Birmingham Closed Burial Grounds Act, the Corporation obtained possession of the burial ground in Park Street (which formerly belonged to St. Martin's Church), and the adjoining graveyard of St. Bartholomew's, and laid them out as public gardens. They also acquired the churchyards of St. Martin's, St. Mary's, St. Paul's, St. George's, St. Philip's, St. Gabriel's, and St. Thomas's. The conversion of St. Philip's Churchyard into a public garden was a most important improvement to the amenities of the centre of the City.

Central Playgrounds.

A new departure was the provision of recreation or playgrounds within the built-up areas of the town. The first of this class to be acquired was the Burbury Street Recreation Ground of about four and a half acres, which



Photograph]

ROSE HILL, THE LICKEYS.

[Ernest H. Fletcher, Master, Bromfield, Mass.

was opened in 1877. The site was originally a clay-pit, and was the gift of the late Mr. William Middlemore. The Walmer Recreation Ground of two and a half acres was next acquired. It formed part of a large area known as "The Old Pleck," lying between Aston Road and Newtown Row. It was known in earlier times as "The Wallmoor," part of the lands which had belonged to the Guild of the Holy Cross, and afterwards to the Free Grammar School. It was opened in 1892.

Progress was made during 1927 and 1928 in the provision of further central playgrounds in the congested areas of the City.

The Kingston Hill Recreation Ground containing about $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres and situate within one mile of the centre of the City was opened on the 27th June by the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cavan. This site had lain derelict for many years, and upon the formation of the Birmingham Branch of the National Playing Fields Association, the site was acquired by Henry A. Butler, Esq., the Hon. Treasurer of the Branch, at a cost of £4,000 and presented to the City, together with £500 towards the cost of levelling and equipment.

The lay-out of this ground embodies the most up-to-date features applicable to public recreation grounds in congested areas. It contains a children's playground fully equipped with gymnastic apparatus, a sand-pit and a cinder track (4 laps to the mile) encircling a levelled and tar paved area of 16,000 square yards which has been adapted for organized games for school children and other purposes. A pavilion has been erected which comprises dressing rooms, shelter, attendant's room, store, lavatories, etc., and the scheme of further development provides for the erection at some further date of a community building comprising an up-to-date bandstand of the "shell" type, a lecture hall, and other communal features.

On the 1st August, 1928, the Lawford Street Recreation Ground was also opened to the public. This site contains about 2 acres and is also situate within one mile of the centre of the City. It has been tar paved and equipped so far as possible, upon similar lines to the Kingston Hill Recreation Ground.

The Lickeys.

In 1889 steps were taken to preserve one of the finest playgrounds and breathing spaces in the Midlands for the people of Birmingham, the range of hills within easy distance of the town known as the Lickey Hills.

A number of building plots having been sold on the lower slopes of Rednal Hill, the Birmingham Association for the Preservation of Open Spaces persuaded the purchasers, with two exceptions, to surrender their bargains, and also purchased the remaining upper portions. As a result of the generosity of the Association and certain individuals Rednal Hill, containing thirty-two and a half acres, and Bilberry Hill, containing forty-nine and a half acres, were ultimately handed over to the Corporation, the latter on a lease for twenty-one years at a nominal rent of £5 a year. A portion of Beacon Hill, containing nearly thirty-two acres, was also presented to the Corporation by Messrs. Edward, George, junr., and Harry T. Cadbury in 1906, and Bilberry Hill was purchased by the Corporation from Lord Plymouth in 1913. The most important of these acquisitions was, of course, that of Beacon Hill, which has a height of 998 feet above sea level, and embraces, it is said, a view of ten or more counties.

The total area of the Lickeys under the control of the Parks Committee, which embraces the charming Cofton Woods, is now about 475 acres and

includes an eighteen-hole municipal golf course, the first nine holes of which were opened for play on July 12th, 1921, and the remaining nine holes on July 20th, 1922.

More Parks.

From 1890 onwards the Corporation pursued a fairly active policy in regard to the acquiring of parks and open spaces, and were assisted in this by generous gifts from, and propaganda initiated by, prominent citizens. Mr. J. S. Nettlefold and several kindred spirits founded an association with the object of securing playing grounds in the crowded central areas, and it was largely due to Mr. Nettlefold's strenuous work for central open spaces that Callowfields Park, the large open space at the corner of Watery Lane and Garrison Lane, was acquired and laid out on the site of demolished slum property, and equipped for gymnastics and open-air games.

By the public-spirited efforts of Mr. A. M. Chance and other citizens, who raised by public subscription the major portion of the purchase price of Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods, these two parks also came into the possession of the Corporation, and at the latter a nine-hole golf course was constructed and opened to the public in 1921—the first municipal golf course to be provided by the City.

By the extension of the City in 1911 a number of parks and open spaces came within the City area, the chief amongst which is the beautiful park at Handsworth, but it is impracticable to give in detail in this little book the history attaching to the many parks and open spaces acquired by the Corporation in pursuance of the policy above indicated. A schedule is attached, however, which sets these out, with the area which make up the total figure given in the first paragraph of this chapter.

Playing Fields.

In recent years the committee have given particular consideration to the provision of open spaces for playing fields, the chief acquisitions being Castle Bromwich Playing Fields (seventy-five acres leased from the Drainage Board), and the Billesley Common Playing Fields, purchased by the Corporation in 1919, and comprising 200 acres. These playing fields are devoted almost solely to cricket and football. The committee have also acquired the sites of the two municipal golf courses at Church Farm (Harborne) and Cock's Moors Woods (Alcester Lanes End). Under various town planning schemes a further 1,150 acres will ultimately come under the control of the committee for open spaces and recreation grounds.

Accommodation is provided for games in the parks as follows :—

Football pitches	..	..	132	Tennis courts (grass)	..	349
Hockey	..	..	12	„ „ (hard)	..	52
Cricket	..	..	127	Bowling greens (crown)	..	28
				„ „ (flat)	..	8

Music. Boating. Staff.

During the summer months music is provided in many of the parks, bands being engaged to play throughout the season; also a series of concerts and *al fresco* dancing. Boating is provided at moderate charges.

The Parks Department comprises a staff of about 620, with a salary and wages bill of £1,650 weekly, and the net cost of the maintenance of parks, recreation grounds, and open spaces is equivalent to a rate of 4d. in the £.

PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS.

PARKS.

Name.	Situation.	Approx. Area. Acres.
Adderley	Adderley Road, Saltley	11
Aston	Trinity Road	49
Balsall Heath	Taunton Road	4
Bournville	Linden Road	7
Brookvale	George Road, Erdington	32
Calthorpe	Pershore Road	31
Cannon Hill	Edgbaston Road	73
Cotteridge	Franklin Road, King's Norton	22
Dafodil	Tessal Lane, Northfield	9
Digby	Mansel Road, Small Heath	6
"Farm"	Sampson Road, Sparkbrook	9
Handsworth	Church Hill	6
Henbury's, Uffculme, and Highbury	Moor Green	73
Highgate	Moseley Road	8
King's Heath	Vicarage Road	30
Lightwoods	Beech Lanes, Bearwood	30
Muntz	Umberslade Road, Selly Park	5
Perry	Church Road, Perry Barr	100
Pype Hayes	Chester Road, Erdington	113
Queen's	Harborne	14
Rookery	Kingsbury Road, Erdington	17
Salford	Lichfield Road	43
Selly Oak	Gibbins Road	31
Selly Park	Selly Avenue	20
Short Heath	Court Lane, Erdington	13
Sparkhill	Stratford Road	19
Summerfield	Dudley Road, Rotton Park	34
Swanshurst	Swanshurst Lane	39
Witton Lakes	Gipsy Lane, Erdington	61
Victoria	Coventry Road	43
Ward End	Washwood Heath Road	54
Warley	Bearwood	111

RECREATION GROUNDS.

Name.	Situation.	Approx. Area. Acres.
Acock's Green	Fox Hollies Road	6
Batchelor's Farm	Belcher's Lane	22
Barr Beacon	Great Barr	14
Billesley Common	King's Heath	204
Black Patch	Perrott Street, Soho	17
Bleak Hill	Erdington	26
Bordesley Green	Saltley	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bournbrook	George Road	2
Brookfields	George Street West	1
Burbury Street	Burbury Street	4
Castle Bromwich	Chester Road	100
Chamberlain Gardens	Ladywood Road	4 $\frac{3}{4}$

RECREATION GROUNDS— <i>Continued.</i>		Approx. Area.
Name.	Situation.	Acres.
Cock's Moors Woods ..	King's Heath	77
Communication Row ..	Ladywood	$\frac{1}{6}$
Coventry Street	Coventry Street	$\frac{1}{3}$
Dad's Lane Farm	King's Heath	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Eliot Street	Nechells	1
Garrison Lane	Garrison Lane	5
Grange Road	Small Heath	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Greet	Reddings Lane	9
Harborne Golf Course ..	Vicarage Road, Harborne ..	$29\frac{1}{2}$
Hazelwell	Stirchley	11
Heybarnes Farm	Hay Mills	$33\frac{1}{2}$
Hodge Hill Common ..	Castle Bromwich	23
Kingston Hill	St. Bartholomew's	$7\frac{1}{2}$
King's Norton	Pershore Road	25
Land	Adjoining River Cole, Yardley Wood	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Land	Yardley and Richmond Roads, Stechford	14
Lawford Street	Duddeston	2
Lickey Hills .. ..	.. ..	472
Manor Road Site	Stechford	23
Marlborough House Estate	Yardley	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Morden Road	Stechford	5
Mount Street	Nechells	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Musgrave Road	Winson Green	2
Oaklands Estate	Yardley	36
Park Street Gardens ..	St. Bartholomew's	4
Pebble Mill Fields ..	Pershore Road, Selly Park ..	5
Pineapple Estate	Allen's Croft Road, King's Heath	3
Quinton	Meadow Lane	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Quinton Nurseries ..	Ridgacre Lane	$14\frac{1}{2}$
Red Hill	Yardley	4
Sandy Lane	Bordesley	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sare Hole Road	Hall Green	2
Sheepcote Street	Ladywood	$\frac{1}{2}$
Staple Hall Farm	Northfield	$90\frac{1}{2}$
Stechford	Yardley Fields Road	4
Stirchley	Hazelwell Street	$1\frac{3}{4}$
St. Margaret's Road ..	Ward End	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Trittiford Mill	Yardley Wood	17
Tower Street	Tower Street	1
Victoria Common	Bristol Road, Northfield ..	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Walmer	Elkington Street	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Yardley	Church Road	$16\frac{1}{2}$

	Acres.
Total area of 32 Public Parks	1,174
„ „ 54 Recreation Grounds	$1,543\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ 19 Open Spaces	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Total	<u>2,734</u>



Photograph]

[Ernest H. Fletcher.

PYPE HAYES PARK.

THE CITY CEMETERIES.

THE cemeteries belonging to the Corporation are under the control of the Parks Committee. The list of cemeteries and number of interments is as follows :

Name, Area and Situation.	Interments.	
	Since opening.	Year ended 31-3-28
Brandwood End (54 acres), Woodthorpe Road,		
King Heath	21,022	1,014
Handsworth (69 acres), Camp Lane, Handsworth	12,807	855
Lodge Hill (72 acres), Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak	32,652	1,205
Quinton (46 acres), Halesowen Road, Quinton	225	82
Witton (102 acres), Moor Lane, Witton	331,729	2,751
Yardley (61 acres), Yardley Road, South Yardley . .	69,135	2,189

The areas given include additions made from time to time for extension.

The first to be acquired was Witton Cemetery, which was opened in 1863. This remained the only cemetery under the control of the Corporation until the extension of the City in 1911, when Brandwood End and Lodge Hill were taken over from the King's Norton Urban District Council, Yardley Cemetery from the Yardley District Council, and Handsworth Cemetery from the Handsworth District Council. The site at Quinton was purchased some years ago, and was opened for burials in 1923.

In each cemetery portions are set apart for Church of England, Non-conformists, and Roman Catholic burials, and each portion is divided into sections, the fees for burial in which vary according to situation.

The annual receipts from City cemeteries is about £27,000.

THE TOWN HALL.

THE re-opening of the Town Hall after interior reconstruction and decoration invites citizens to recall the history of a building which is the centre of civic unity and an impressive witness to civic ideals.

Up to 1827 Town's Meetings had been held in "the Chamber over the Cross," and subsequently at the public offices in Moor Street, or at "The Shakespeare Tavern" in New Street, or at Beardsworth's Repository in Cheapside. In this year the ratepayers petitioned the Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Act to provide a suitable building in which to hold public or town's meetings, and in 1828 the Town Improvement Act authorized various schemes, including the building of a new Town Hall.

Various sites in Bennett's Hill and elsewhere were examined, and in 1830 it was decided to build in Paradise Street, and a site of 6,400 square yards was acquired for £17,521.

Mr. (later Sir) Charles Barry, afterwards to become famous as the architect of the Houses of Parliament, but justly remembered in Birmingham for his work on King Edward's High School and the older portion of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, submitted a design, but it was not approved, and the design of Joseph Hansom was accepted. Mr. Hansom was an inventor as well as an architect. His name became familiar by his design of a "patent safety cab," known to past generations as the "Hansom." He was born in 1803, lived until 1882, and designed many well-known churches, one of the best of which is St. Walburge's at Preston. But he never surpassed the simplicity and dignity of Birmingham's Town Hall, the main lines of which were obviously modelled on the Temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome.

The building was commenced in April, 1832, and was finally completed, under the supervision of a local architect, in 1851, when it was transferred from the Street Commissioners to the Town Council. The total cost of the building, as completed in 1851, has been estimated at £52,000, apart from the site, fittings, and organ. Hansom, however, had little reason to remember with satisfaction his share in the construction. The terms imposed on him required him to become bond for the builders, and he went bankrupt.

Mendelssohn's Memorable Visit.

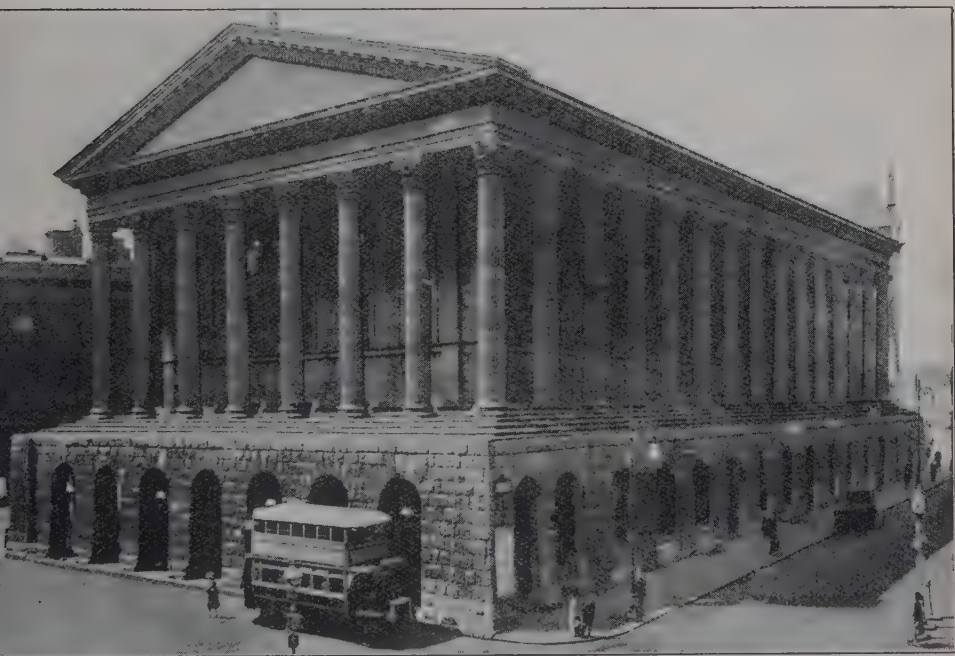
The organ (by William Hill) cost about £4,000. It was the property of the General Hospital, but became the property of the Corporation in 1922. The Triennial Musical Festivals were inaugurated in 1768, and in 1832 the General Hospital, by a contribution of £1,200 to the building fund, acquired the right to use the hall every third year for the Musical Festivals. The first festival given there was in 1834, and was continued triennially until it was finally abandoned during the war. Mendelssohn

made his first visit in 1837, and in 1846 his production of "Elijah," specially written for the occasion and conducted by the composer, made the festival of that year memorable.

Numerous changes and improvements in ventilation, warming, and lighting (electric light was first installed in 1882) have been effected since 1852, but the recent and more drastic reconstruction and redecoration were long overdue.

A volume would be required to summarise the many political and other meetings, together with concerts, bazaars, and conversaziones that have been held in the Town Hall from 1834 onwards. Such a volume would tell of the public, municipal, social, intellectual, and artistic life of Birmingham for nearly a century. The "old" Town Hall, the interior of which was decorated with mural paintings by Birmingham art students illustrating the principal events in the history of the city, has resounded to the oratory and enshrined the aspirations of three generations of citizens ; it has given hospitality and a platform to many famous men and to many noble causes.

The re-constructed and re-decorated hall does not close that crowded chronicle of civic life—it consummates a proud past, and points, in a new chapter, to the legacy of a great tradition.



THE TOWN HALL.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ORCHESTRA.

THE City of Birmingham Orchestra was first instituted in 1919, when, at a meeting of the City Council, it was reported that a number of prominent citizens were desirous of establishing a City orchestra, to consist of a body of instrumentalists recruited as far as possible from local sources. It was proposed that the annual season should last for thirty weeks, from October to May, that popular Sunday and Saturday evening concerts, together with twelve Wednesday symphony concerts, should be given, and a series of evenings devoted to light music. Free concerts were to be given a prominent place in the season's activities.

Guarantees by Private Subscribers and Corporation.

It was estimated that the total annual cost of the scheme would be about £8,500, while the revenue derived from the engagements and concerts was expected to reach £6,000. Half of the deficiency was guaranteed by private subscribers for a period of five years and the remaining £1,250 similarly guaranteed by the Corporation. So high was the Council's estimation of the work of the orchestra during the first five years of its existence that in 1925 the grant was extended to £2,500.

Since its inception the orchestra has well justified its existence, and has already earned an envied reputation in London, not less than in the Midlands and provinces. The orchestra has, moreover, done a vast amount of valuable work of an educational character among the school children of the City. Concerts for pupils, at which their teachers were invited to be present, have proved very successful. Programmes of music, particularly suitable for juvenile audiences, have done much to cultivate a taste for good music in these future citizens.

Birmingham Concerts.

During the past season, the orchestra has given 8 symphony concerts, 25 Sunday concerts, 4 Saturday afternoon concerts for school children and 8 free lunch-hour concerts, together with a new series of 4 free children's concerts given on Tuesday afternoons during school hours, with the co-operation of the City of Birmingham Education Authority. The Sunday evening series continued to attract a good audience and though still resulting in financial loss, the result is extremely encouraging. Much is done in this and other ways to popularise music in the City, and there is a marked growing appreciation of the efforts of the orchestra.

Out-of-Town Engagements.

The orchestra fulfils many out-of-town engagements, and in recent days has visited the schools and colleges of Rugby, Cheltenham, Malvern, Wellington, Shrewsbury and Oundle, and in addition sent orchestras to Leamington, Cheltenham, Hanley, Shrewsbury, Kidderminster, West Bromwich, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Oxford and Malvern.

The orchestra is the first of its kind to be established in the country. Other towns have followed Birmingham's lead, but none yet instituted has such a reputation as that enjoyed by the Birmingham venture. It has still some distance to go before it will be self-supporting, but the results achieved have more than justified the City's faith in the Orchestra, and have proved that it is worthy of civic support and admiration.

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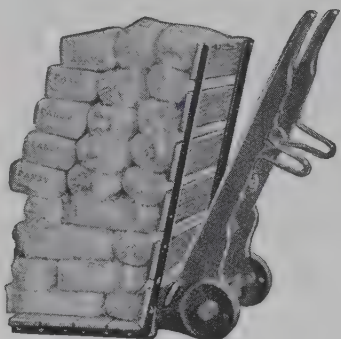
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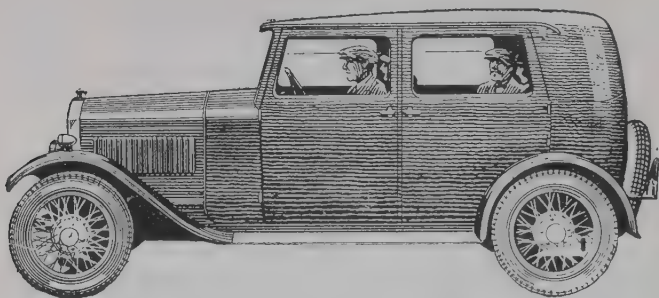
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PUBLIC WORKS.

THE principal duties carried out by the Public Works and Town Planning Department, under the City Engineer and Surveyor, are the construction maintenance, and cleansing of the public highways and sewers; widening and reconstruction of streets and bridges; lighting of streets; preventing the pollution of streams; administration of the building bye-laws; erection of municipal houses; preparation and administration of town planning schemes and advisory work on regional town planning; care of public buildings, and preparation of plans and supervision of buildings for other departments.

There is an Assistant City Surveyor and also three Chief Assistants having charge of the three divisions into which the City is divided for administrative purposes. The three divisions are sub-divided into two districts under the general supervision of a District Surveyor and Engineer, with the Road Superintendent and Sewer Superintendent in charge of the working gangs. Building bye-laws administration and constructional work require a chief building surveyor, with a deputy and six district building surveyors.

Road Construction and Widening.

Increase in speed, volume, and weight of vehicular traffic in recent years has raised new problems in road construction. The method of laying broken stone and rolling it in with the application of water has been practically abandoned, as it rapidly disintegrates under modern traffic conditions. Broken slag or stone coated with refined coal-gas tar or bituminous compounds have been substituted, and the surfaces of roads so constructed have been sealed and made practically dustless by the yearly application of hot tar or bituminous mixtures.

Experiments to determine the best kind of material for different conditions of traffic, gradient, etc., have been carried out, and the fullest advantage taken of all new methods and inventions. The department acquired and worked a great mound of old cold blast slag at Albion, part of the material being made into tarred macadam at the Corporation Depots and part being used for road foundation.

In Birmingham heavy traffic is catered for by roads constructed of granite sett, wood block, grit sett, durax, and natural asphalt paving. For moderate traffic concrete and bituminous concrete roads are laid, and light traffic is carried over six inches Portland cement concrete or three inches tarred slag macadam.

The problem of widening of streets and roads to meet modern needs has been courageously tackled. In 1918 the City Council approved a scheme for the widening of the great radial roads to 110 or 120 feet, providing for two carriageways divided by a tram track (sleeper construction), and, of course, two footways, with grass margins and trees.



SALFORD BRIDGE.

A local Act enables the Corporation to lay down the line of the future improvement upon a plan and require the owner to sell the necessary land to them whenever it becomes unbuilt upon. As much of the property abutting upon these main roads is so old as to involve demolition, the Corporation have been able to pursue a policy of gradual purchase which has not been unduly burdensome to the ratepayers. Provision is made in all town planning schemes for the widening of existing roads and the making of new arterial and secondary roads.

Outer Ring and Arterial Roads Programme.

In the early stages of town planning it was found desirable to provide for an outer ring road, about three and a half miles from the centre of the City, to be made partly by the widening of existing roads and partly by constructing entirely new lengths of roads. The total length is about twenty-four miles, and a considerable portion has already been made. A long programme of widenings and construction has been carried out in recent years partly by schemes in relief of unemployment.

The most important and latest carried out under the supervision of the City Engineer is the new £600,000 arterial road between Birmingham and Wolverhampton—a scheme suggested to local authorities in 1908, delayed to 1914, then shelved till 1919, when it was again revived. In 1922, upon a promise of the Government to pay sixty per cent. of the cost, the scheme was approved, plans were finally agreed upon by the local authorities concerned in September, 1923, estimates of the total expenditure involved submitted to the City Council in February, 1924, and a tender for the work accepted.

The road, which was opened by the Prince of Wales in November, 1927, is about nine and a half miles long, and passes through Oldbury, Halesowen, Rowley Regis, Dudley, Tipton, and Coseley, making a total distance from the centre of Birmingham to the centre of Wolverhampton of fifteen miles. The route adopted has caused heavy expenditure in building seven bridges, but has resulted in saving much money in the acquirement of property and rehousing. Sharp bends have been avoided, and only 60 feet of the 100 feet between fences have been utilised, a 20 feet verge being left on both sides for possible future widening, 40 feet being carriageway and 10 feet each side footpath.

Railway, Canal, and River Bridges.

The widening and reconstruction of bridges on heavily trafficked routes has also been carried out during the past five years, mainly by Government-aided schemes for relief of unemployment.

Chief of these is the new Salford Bridge at Gravelly Hill. The traffic census of 1925 proved this to be the busiest of nineteen selected points on the main roads—the width between the parapets at that time being only thirty-six feet! The new structure is eighty-five feet wide and consists of two bridges, one over the river and the other over the canal, united by wing walls supporting the approaches, and surmounted by a continuous parapet. The river bridge has a skew-brick arch having a span of seventy-two feet and a rise of fourteen feet, while the canal bridge is a deck-plate girder construction. Both are carried on mass concrete abutments. The carriageway, which is made of wood blocks on an eight-inch foundation of reinforced concrete, is fifty feet wide, and each footpath is seventeen feet six inches.

Other bridges constructed as unemployment relief works are railway bridges at Brighton Road (Balsall Heath), Bristol Road South (Longbridge) Bromford Lane (Erdington), Bridge Road (Saltley), and canal bridges at Stockfield Road (South Yardley), and Wheelwright Road (Erdington). River bridges include Cole Bank Road (Hall Green) and Hobmoor Road (Yardley) over the Cole, Pershore Road South (King's Norton) over the Rea, Harborne Lane (Selly Oak) over Bourn Brook, and Bromford Lane (Erdington) over the Tame.

Lighting and Cleansing of Streets and Roads.

But for the invention of the incandescent mantle possibly electricity would have superseded gas as a street illuminant. Some streets are lighted by electricity, notably Broad Street in the neighbourhood of the War Memorial, and in Victoria Square there is a special installation of a high pressure gas lighting. Experiments have been made in the past and any new invention is tested with a view to determining what kind of lamp and burner is best suited to local conditions; it has been found that the medium-sized burner, known as No. 2, is the most effective, and this type of burner and mantle has been adopted throughout the City.

The lamps in the centre of the City and at many of the important points in the suburbs are the Public Works Department's own pattern circular lamp. It is questionable whether there is a lamp to equal it, many of them having been in use between thirty and forty years. The importance of the thoroughfare and the amount of traffic thereon determines the capacity of the lamps erected. Busy central streets are fitted with eight-light to sixteen-light burner lamps; main roads and tram routes four burners, with two additional red lights at "stopping places." Lighting and extinguishing is done by automatic clockwork apparatus.

Although the Corporation have had statutory powers since 1883 to enforce the lighting of courts, the majority of owners failed to maintain and light lamps, and a few years ago it was decided to relieve the owners of all future liability if they would pay for the first cost of installation. This has resulted in a much-needed improvement, and over five thousand court lamps (fifty candle-power) are now maintained.

There are in use for street cleansing a large number of petrol-driven sweeping machines and machines by which the street surface is swept and refuse elevated and dropped into a receptacle on the machine ready for removal to tip, instead of being left in heaps to be transferred to carts by hand labour. There is also a steam-driven "vacuum" gully emptier, the contents of the gully being drawn by suction through a pipe into a container instead of being ladled out on to the side of the road and then shovelled into carts.

The principal streets are cleaned daily, the paved carriage ways in the centre of the City being swilled down during the night time and all other streets cleaned periodically at longer intervals.

Main Drainage and Storm Water Troubles.

Birmingham drains through four main valleys—those of the River Rea, the Hockley Brook, the River Cole, and the River Tame. Except for three comparatively small areas the drainage is by gravitation; that is to say, the small sewers drain into the larger sewers, which in turn are connected to the main trunk sewers laid along the valleys and adjoining the streams into which they overflow in times of storm. The main valley sewers discharge ultimately into the Sewage Disposal Works at Saltley, Cole Hall, and Acock's Green.



AN ARTERIAL ROAD.

One of the chief problems in connection with the drainage of the City in recent years, especially in times of storm, has been the rapid discharge of surface water flooding the sewers and streams owing to the increasing area of impermeable surfaces from streets, roofs, and yards as the City steadily developed.

In 1917 the City Council approved a scheme to deal with this by deepening Hockley Brook and re-constructing the Hockley main sewer with overflows, the former difficult and inevitably slow owing to necessity of underpinning so many buildings and maintaining the flow of the stream while the work was in progress, but it is now approaching completion. A length of sewer from Long Acre to Chester Street (over 1,900 yards) has been re-constructed, and where it passes through the Corporation Gas Works the ground was so bad that it was necessary to use steel sheet piling to line the trench sides, and to lay the sewer on piles. A further length in Farm Street and across Hockley Hill has also been re-constructed.

In the valley of the River Rea is the largest trunk sewer in the City, viz., the Rea Main Sewer, the enlargement of which has been proceeding for several years. The reconstruction was commenced near the County Cricket Ground off Edgbaston Road, and is now completed up to Quarry Lane (Northfield). Ultimately the sewer will be extended up to Longbridge and the City boundary at Rubery, and serve to drain these areas for many years.

Magnitude of Sewerage Schemes.

Other main sewers which have had to be reconstructed are the Cole Valley eastern outfall sewer, a portion of which from near Coventry Road to near Cole Bank Road (Hall Green), has been recently completed; and the Erdington main sewer, which drains the Short Heath area. There are

two electrically-equipped sewage pumping stations dealing with the sewage and storm water from areas which are too low to be drained by gravitation into main sewers—one at Argyle Street and the other at Witton.

The magnitude of the undertakings in recent years of this branch of public service, for which the Public Works Department is responsible, may be gathered from the following summary of the estimated cost of the various sewerage schemes, excluding all smaller schemes and small housing estates :

Hockley Valley Sewerage and Brook Improvement	..	£800,000
Rea Main Sewer Reconstruction	.. ..	£270,000
Cole Valley Eastern Outfall Sewer Reconstruction	..	£140,000
Erdington Main Sewer	.. .. .	£100,000
Other Main Sewers	.. .. .	£685,000
Housing Estate Sewers	.. .. .	£258,000
Total		£2,253,000

Prevention of Pollution of Streams.

The pollution of streams and rivers, especially the Tame and Rea, is referred to in the chapter on sewage disposal. A systematic inspection of potential sources of pollution of streams within the City is carried out, and also in areas of adjoining local authorities above Birmingham. These authorities are at once notified of all pollutions detected, and six of them at the present time are contemplating the extension of their sewage disposal works.

There are adjoining the rivers a considerable number of trade premises where liquid waste is produced, and the number of cases is increasing where the permanent exclusion of this waste from the streams has been obtained by connection with the sewers. The Tame Basin Joint Committee commends this method to its constituent authorities as the most efficient for preventing pollution, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries reports that the example of the committee is one that ought to be followed all over the country.

Architectural Work and Building Bye-Laws.

Some of the more important public buildings designed and erected within the past few years under the supervision of the City Surveyor are : Aston Fire Station, in the Renaissance style, regarded as one of the best in the country ; the meat market and extension of abattoirs built on the land at the corner of Sherlock Street East and Cheapside ; Rubery Hill day-room extension undertaken with a view to bringing the hospital more into line with modern requirements ; bungalow annexes at Hollymoor and Rubery, a new departure in mental hospital treatment designed on domestic lines ; reconstruction at central and branch libraries ; and the extensive alterations and refitting for the new headquarters of the Municipal Bank in Edmund Street, as well as the new buildings and many reconstructions for numerous branches.

Several assistants are constantly engaged in the preparation of plans and supervision of this sphere of municipal activity. The administration of the bye-laws as to new buildings is also an important branch of the department's work, the increasing use of concrete and reinforced concrete having introduced new factors involving very careful calculations as to

strength, especially in regard to large buildings. Supervision is also exercised under the Factory Acts to ensure that means of escape are adequate in case of fire.

The chief work among public buildings during recent years has been supervising the alteration and redecoration of the Town Hall.

Municipal Houses.

The first contracts for the erection of municipal houses under various Housing Acts were let under the Housing and Town Planning Committee, and in September, 1919, a Housing and Estates Department was formed. Housing work proceeded under this department until April, 1922, when the work was transferred to the Public Works and Town Planning Committee and their department has designed and supervised all subsequent erections. There was much variation in planning of the earlier contracts, but these were eventually standardised.

Under the 1919 (Addison) and also the 1923 (Chamberlain) and 1924 (Wheatley) schemes both parlour and non-parlour types of houses were built; under the two later schemes, in addition, maisonnettes (two flats in one house) and flats were built. The totals of houses completed and under construction or sold will be found in the housing table in Section VII.

Vehicles and Plant.

The department has in use for its multifarious activities a great number of vehicles of all descriptions, as well as large and important plant under the supervision of a highly-qualified engineer. Besides motor-cars and motor-cycles and a long list of road cleansing machinery and vehicles, there are twenty-nine road rollers, twenty steam wagons, nine tractors and lorries, and a whole host of tar-spraying and road-making equipment. Carpenters, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths are employed at depots in various parts of the City for repair work.

Extension of City : Perry Barr.

A large area of the adjoining district of Perry Barr became incorporated with the City in April last and as a consequence, very large schemes are at present proceeding in connection with the lay-out and making of roads, building of houses and the construction of sewers, etc., for the development of this area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

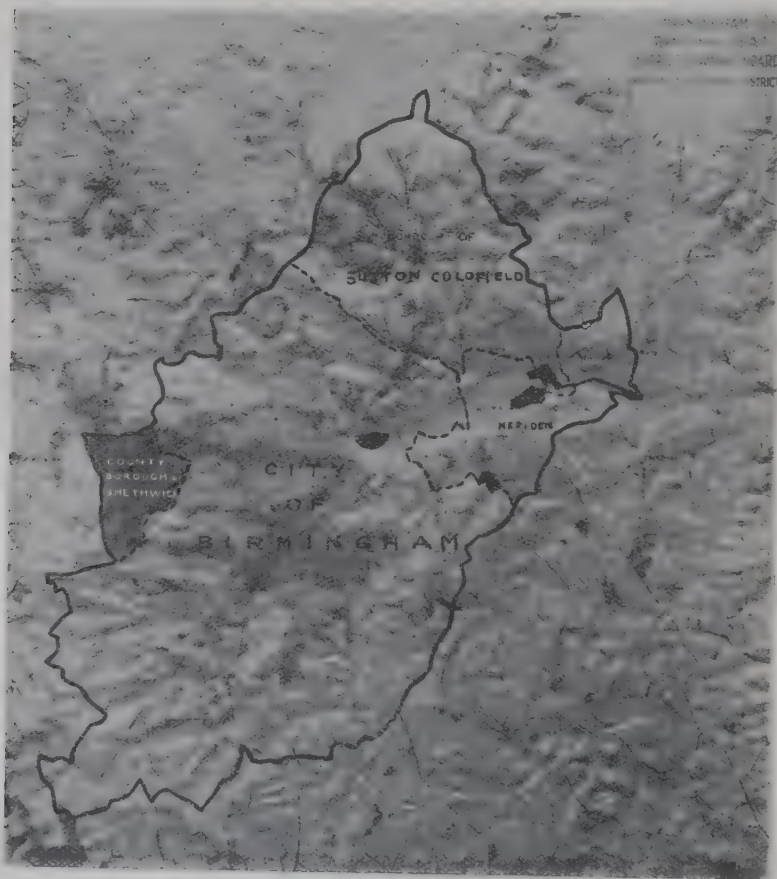
THE story of the disposal of nightsoil when Birmingham was practically a " midden " town and slowly passing to a water-carriage system is briefly told in the chapter on salvage.

Early in the 70's of last century the question of the treatment of the town's sewage had become a pressing problem. Neglect to make proper provision for a growing population and constant pollution of the River Tame and its tributaries were causing complaints and threats of legal actions and claims for damages, injunctions restraining the Town Council from causing a nuisance on land and water having already been granted.

The Great Public Health Act of 1875.

Up to this time the sedimentation tank and an irrigation area at Saltley were the only means of dealing with the sewage of a population of over 300,000. The gradual supersession of the middens and cesspools of the town by a water-carriage system of sewage disposal, and the development of Birmingham and surrounding districts, tended to aggravate further the difficulties, and in 1876 the Town Council, during the mayoralty of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, took steps for the formation of an united district drainage board, a course made possible by the provisions of the great Public Health Act of the previous year.

A conference of neighbouring local authorities was convened by the Sewage Committee of the Council at which resolutions were carried recommending the authorities concerned to form an united district drainage board for the purpose of carrying into effect a system of intercepting and outfall sewage and of disposal of sewage for all such districts of contributory places; and that a joint committee be formed for promoting the object desired.



MAP OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

The joint committee prepared a scheme, which was submitted to the Local Government Board, who, after an inquiry held in Birmingham in 1877 lasting seven days, issued a Provisional Order constituting the Birmingham Tame and Rea Main Sewerage District.

The Drainage Board Appears on the Scene.

The Bill confirming the Provisional Order received the Royal Assent in August, 1877, and the governing body of the newly-formed sewerage area was called The Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board. The districts at that time included were Birmingham, Aston Manor, Smethwick, Balsall Heath, Handsworth, Harborne, and Saltley; also parts of King's Norton and Northfield, the rural parish of Aston (comprising Erdington, Witton, Castle Bromwich, Water Orton, and Little Bromwich), and the Parish of Perry Barr. There was an estimated population of 475,944 and an area of 34,343 acres.

The Board then consisted of two *ex officio* and twenty elective members, but various enlargements of the districts served have taken place from time to time involving changes in its constitution. At times proposals have been made in the City Council that the Corporation should take steps to merge the work of the Board in that of the Corporation with a view to the Board being dissolved, but no developments have occurred in this direction, and the relations of the Council and Board have always been and continue to be of a cordial character.

The Board Set to Work.

The new Drainage Board set to work, taking over the sewage plants and lands of the constituent authorities, connecting the various districts with the works at Saltley and constructing a new primary subsiding tank there. They received sanction from the Local Government Board to borrow £164,000 to pay for the works and land taken over and new constructions, and proceeded to consider the best methods of treatment and the disposal of the sewage of the combined districts. Having decided in favour of a process of precipitation, irrigation, and farming, a large area of land was acquired between Saltley and Plants' Book and works arranged for distributing the sewage over the land.

The Board had knotty problems to settle in connection with the conveyance of the sewage of the constituent districts to the outfall works, and one that was settled in 1881 involved the construction of a sewer about six and a quarter miles in length between Sparkbrook and Ashold (near Tyburn), partly in tunnel near Hodge Hill Common and in syphon under the River Tame. Up to 1886 nearly a thousand acres of additional land were acquired for the purposes of irrigation, farm buildings were erected, and farms stocked.

With increasing population still further extension became necessary, and in 1897 a £400,000 scheme was authorised by Act of Parliament to extend the farm at Saltley by another 1,000 acres down the Tame Valley, and additional works with a main outfall channel into the Tame at Sweetmore Bridge, near Forge Mills. This extension scheme needed three crossings under the Fazeley canal by main conduits, the lowering of the bed of the river, and abolition of the weir at Forge Mills.

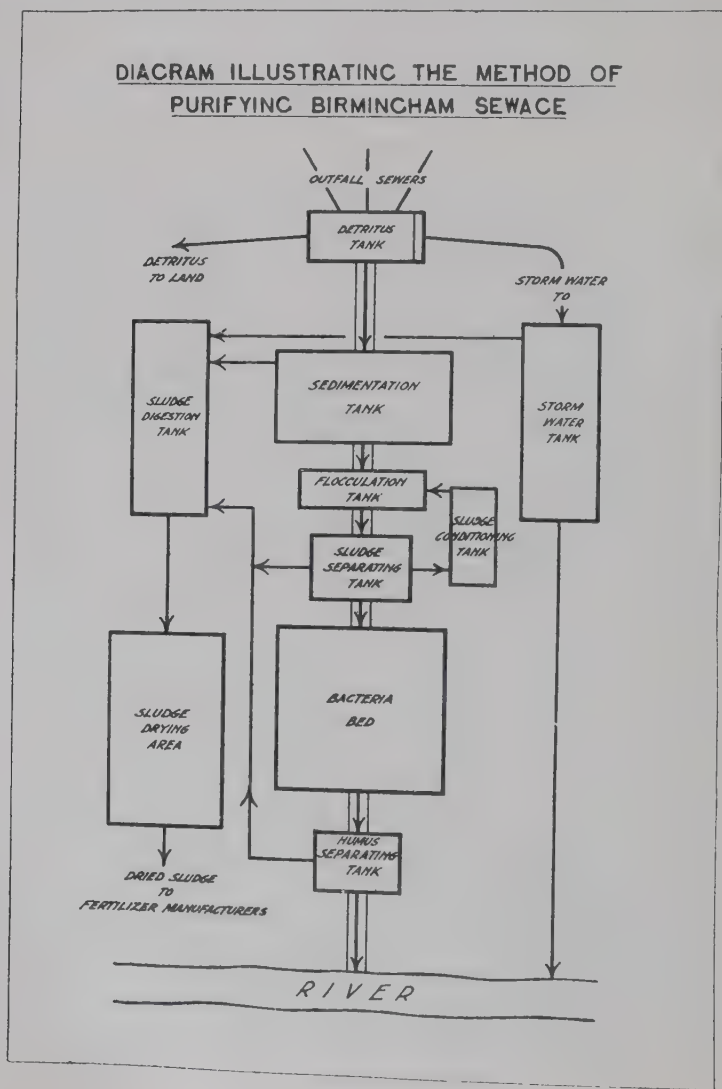
Trouble with Tamworth.

Even while these improvements were in progress the Tamworth authorities commenced legal proceedings in respect of the alleged pollution

of the river, and the Drainage Board at once carried out further improvements at Saltley at a cost of over £117,000. After eleven years of litigation, during which the changes outlined in the two succeeding paragraphs took place, judgment was given in favour of the Board, largely due to the establishment of the theory which had been continuously urged by the engineer to the Board, that the effluent from the works, owing to its chemical composition, improved the river rather than deteriorated it.

Death Knell of the Sewage Farm.

A significant change of methods in the treatment of sewage was heralded in 1898 in a joint report by Professor James Dewar, the scientist, and the late Mr. Hawksley, consulting engineer to the Board. They suggested that it was desirable that simple experimental filters should be



constructed to test the expediency of adopting artificial filtration as an aid to land treatment. The death knell of the "sewage farm" had been rung, and soon after the system of treatment of sewage in bacterial filters instead of by irrigation was adopted. In subsequent years Mr. Watson, then Engineer to the Board, designed and carried out a complete scheme of treatment by bacteriological processes.

The gradual discontinuance of land irrigation as a means of purifying sewage, owing to the new methods introduced, enabled the Board to sell and lease large parcels of land for industrial purposes and farm holdings. The farming operations of the Board disappeared; bacteria filter beds took their place. By arrangements with the Corporation the ashes and debris from the Gas, Electric Supply, and Public Works Departments were removed by the Board and used for filtration and other purposes, necessitating an outlay of £70,000 for transport, equipment, and constructional work at Minworth.

Story of Sewage Purification like a Romance.

The story of sewage purification by bacterial methods—the harnessing of bacterial life to perform work for the good and comfort of mankind—is like a romance. How anerobic organisms help by fermentation and digestion in the conversion of 400,000 tons of crude sludge to a form that can be dried in the open air without offence, and how aerobic organisms assist in purifying the sewage liquor almost to drinking quality, are questions that may be studied by citizens in scientific treatises on the subject.

Such strides have, indeed, been made that at Saltley a 150 horse-power internal combustion engine generating electricity is worked by sludge gas collected in concrete containers which float on the surface of the sludge digestion tanks.

The Drainage Board works now purify the sewage of a population of 1,077,163. A dry weather flow of 29,000,000 gallons a day is dealt with at the Tame Valley works at Saltley, Ashold, Tyburn, and Minworth, and 3,000,000 gallons at the Cole Valley installations at Cole Hall and Acock's Green; and the storm water tanks at Saltley have been extended to cope with the speedy discharge from Birmingham owing to the increasing area of impermeable surfaces of streets, roofs, and yards.

Workshops Capable of Dealing with all Breakdowns.

The electrical and mechanical equipment of these places is in constant use, and the workshops at Minworth and Saltley are capable of dealing with all breakdowns and maintenance repairs. The total cost of the works during the year 1927-28, including interest and repayment of loans, was £179,804, a charge of about 3s. 4d. per annum on each person within the drainage district. Birmingham's City Treasurer is Treasurer of the Drainage Board.

That sewage purification need not be carried out in an inartistic environment is proved by the general layout of the various works of the Board, where pleasant surroundings are afforded by the presence of plantations, flower-borders, and shrubberies.

"Fifty-one Years of Harmonious Co-operation."

Fifty-one years have passed since the formation of the Drainage Board. In the words of Mr. Neville Chamberlain, in his foreword to the "History of the Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board," it has been "fifty-one years of harmonious and successful co-operation between adjacent

local authorities, widely dissimilar in size, wealth, and population, but working together for common interests and with common benefits to all concerned. Together they have, with the assistance and advice of their highly gifted staff, gradually worked out a method of treatment capable of dealing with an average daily dry weather flow of over thirty million gallons of sewage in a comparatively limited area of ground, and at what must be termed a trifling cost per head of population. By the marvellous adaptation of natural forces to the service of man, the crude and offensive materials discharged from a great industrial area are quickly transformed into innocuous solids and an effluent the purity of which leaves nothing to be desired, while even the gas given off by the fermentation serves to drive the engine which provides the works with light and power."

Citizens of Birmingham can congratulate themselves on the wisdom of their councillors of 1876, and have no reason to regret that a proposal or that period to take Birmingham sewage to the sea on the East Coast was not adopted.

City of



Birmingham

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HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION IV.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

TOWN PLANNING



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TOWN PLANNING.

TOWN PLANNING has long been of the greatest interest to the City of Birmingham, which was quick to appreciate the great advantage of its adoption, for, while its importance to every town or district was recognized, it was felt that for large growing industrial areas like the City and its surroundings, it was an absolute necessity.

Statistics of Birmingham Town Planning.

The total area of the City is 46,687 acres, of which 34,049 acres have been town planned. There remains the central area of 12,638 acres which has not been town planned, but which, to a large extent, has been tentatively re-planned.

The first Town Planning Scheme to be adopted in Birmingham, and, indeed, in the country, was the "Quinton, Harborne and Edgbaston," covering an area of about 2,320 acres, and the date of its approval by the Ministry was 31st May, 1913.

The second scheme was the Birmingham (East) Town Planning Scheme, covering 1,443 acres, and approved 18th August, 1913.

The third scheme was the North Yardley and Stechford, covering 3,176 acres, and approved 4th July, 1921. It included an area within the Rural District of Meriden, which consisted of 1,111 acres. The difficulties met with in planning the area outside the City boundary were great, and did not encourage further efforts in that way.

The next scheme is the Birmingham (South) Town Planning Scheme, covering 8,267 acres and the following scheme is the Birmingham (South West) Scheme, covering 9,863 acres, the draft of which is now awaiting submission to the Ministry of Health.

The last schemes are the Birmingham (North) Town Planning Scheme, covering 7,000 acres, and the Perry Barr Town Planning Scheme covering 3,086 acres, which have been tentatively planned.

Principles of Comprehensive Planning.

Although for convenience and other reasons the total area of 35,160 acres surrounding the central built-up area of the City has been sectionalised in the manner described, the necessity for the general lines of the main services being laid down in a comprehensive scheme for the whole of the area and, beyond that, for the whole of the City, so that central area improvements or re-planning shall eventually form part of one whole coherent development scheme, has been fully acted upon. In addition, the effect of the schemes upon the adjoining districts and towns outside the City boundaries and their co-ordination with possible improvement schemes with them has been taken into account, especially as regards the best methods of continuing the various services into and through them.

Schemes not too Detailed.

Experience in connection with Town Planning in Birmingham has confirmed the view, as it has in other towns, that great difficulties are often involved in attempting to plan the development of an area in too much detail, or, in other words, to try and determine for all time what may be described as internal development. As time goes on new conditions have been found to arise, rendering modifications necessary, which have been hampered by the too settled detailed policy adopted.

Drainage System and Road Bases of Schemes.

What may be described as the fundamental engineering requirements or bases of Town Planning have received careful attention in the various schemes, especially as regards the main drainage and road systems. While the road system of an area is often likened to the skeleton of a body, the drainage system may be said to be as its veins, for, upon its efficiency and capacity to properly convey, discharge and dispose of both sewage and storm waters, largely depends the safety, health, comfort and industrial efficiency of the community. Drainage questions, therefore, have had considerable effect upon the details of the schemes.

Provisions have therefore been made to enable the improvement and regulation of the natural waterways, such as rivers, streams, etc., to be effected. Every advantage has been taken of providing opportunities of improvement of their lines of direction, while adjoining lands are still unbuilt upon, and to reserve sufficient land adjoining them, so as not only to provide for desirable enlargements and deviations, but also to enable maintenance and supervision to be readily executed. A further object has been to prevent buildings being erected over the streams with their probable restrictive and other results.

In many cases, these objects have been combined in a most advantageous manner with the provision of parkway strips, recreation grounds, etc., but even if only just a sufficient width of land for actual utilitarian purposes can be reserved, it is of exceeding importance. There are at present, important schemes in prospect in connection with the improvements necessary to the City's rivers and streams.

Transport Facilities.

The arterial road system of the entire City has been planned or re-planned as a whole, and the improvement of existing, or laying down of new arterial roads included within the various Town Planning Schemes are designed as part of that system. The general plan for the road system of the City provides for the improvement of the 13 great radial roads running from a small central ring road to the boundaries of the City. It also provides for an outer ring road with an approximate radius of about 4 miles, and a length of 24 miles, together with intermediate ring or semi-ring roads. The road system has been planned with the idea of providing the most direct means possible for communications within the City itself and from all parts of the City to the outer world, and as a part of the general transportation undertakings which are especially recognized as being the life-blood of manufacturing and trading areas. The convenience and mobility, the saving of handling costs, and the efficiency and control of road transport is having the effect of so increasing the traffic on the roads that their proportion of value in the general transportation methods of the country is rising in an extraordinary manner. The traffic on the City arterial roads increased threefold within a period of seven years.

Provision has, therefore, been made for main arterial roads of 120 feet, secondary arterial roads of 80 feet, local communication roads of 55 to 65 feet, and minor and estate development roads varying from 36 feet to 42 feet. The principles upon which they have been designed include the provision of most direct routes, sufficient widths and design to meet the estimated future traffic requirements, facilities where required for fast through traffic, and for the safety of main and crossing traffic, together with easy gradients and good alignment, with long curves, avoiding wriggles, and the widening out of the roads at curves and junctions. The

need for wide footpaths in both shopping, industrial and residential roads has been provided for, so as to give ample standing and promenading space, providing parkway effects and giving ample accommodation for the various service mains under them.

If required to preserve valuable natural features, the roads are made wider than the standard widths. In the central area, the main arterial streets are narrowed down to 110 feet to meet special circumstances, but the transport accommodation is not lessened.

The recently constructed Birmingham and Wolverhampton Road was designed to be 150 feet wide, with a central 40 feet wide fast traffic carriageway, with a strip on either side of it to be reserved for either sleeper track tramway lines, or as strips of parkway. Outside each of these strips would be a slow and stopping traffic narrow carriageway, with a wide footpath adjoining each side boundary of the road. This cross section was, for certain reasons, afterwards modified.

In the earlier Town Planning Schemes the widths adopted for the roads varied from 42 feet to 100 feet, roads to be widened and new roads shown upon the maps, the following table gives the information :--

Scheme	New Roads Miles	Widening of Existing Roads Miles
Quinton, Harborne and Edgbaston	5.62	3.32
East Birmingham	3.72	1.93
North Yardley and Stechford ..	10.0	19.2
Birmingham (South)	11.8	96.7
Birmingham (South West) ..	Only yet in draft	
Birmingham (North)	Only yet in draft	
Perry Barr	Only yet in draft	



A TOWN PLANNING ROAD.

Of the 152 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of new or widened roads in these four schemes, 13.05 miles of new roads are to be constructed at the entire cost of the Corporation and 36.81 miles of widening existing roads are also to be dealt with in the same manner. As regards the remaining 18.07 miles of new roads and 84.34 miles of widened existing roads, the adjoining owners contribute towards their cost.

Further important control of development is secured by provisions in the scheme enabling the Corporation, with the sanction of the Ministry of Health, to construct a "traffic street" on any land within the area. Traffic streets may thus be constructed where the Corporation think they are desirable, upon adequate compensation being paid.

In certain cases roads have been designed for special circumstances, for example, for meeting æsthetic and health requirements and for retaining lines of trees or other amenities, by greatly exceeding the standard widths, etc., in fact, to as large an extent as possible, character is given to the individual road, and the section of the system of which it forms part. In the case of the dividing line between residential and industrial areas, for instance, roads have been specially planned for screening the latter from the former as much as possible, a notable example being included in the "South" Scheme, where such a road has been made a boulevard 188 feet wide, laid out with a belt of trees, etc.

The junctions of roads, too, in many cases have received careful consideration with a view to laying them out as special features in the road planning, or as safety crossways for vehicular traffic.

General Transportation.

While ample provision has been made in the schemes to facilitate tramway and omnibus transport and to accommodate the ever increasing private and commercial motor traffic, the necessities of increased facilities for railway and canal transportation has not been lost sight of. It is recognized that if the greatest benefit is to be derived from such methods of transport, they must be arranged and worked in connection with Town Planning and Re-Planning Schemes in industrial areas, so that far more use can be made of direct loading from works, factories, etc., than is obtained at the present time. Far too little attention appears to have been paid in the past to the question of siding branches of railways and canals being designed upon lines which will serve large numbers of undertakings instead of perhaps one alone, because of its abutment upon the main railway or canal.

The question, therefore, of reserving suitable sites for extending canal and railway facilities, governed, of course, largely by topographical conditions, has received consideration in connection with some of the schemes. In one case the reservation of land to enable a canal extension to be carried out has been made, and in another a draft scheme for providing railway siding facilities for a planned out factory area has been under consideration.

Building Lines in Roads.

Building lines in roads have been laid down in the schemes for all roads. The schemes provide for building lines of 20 feet and 30 feet, with a provision allowing the building line to be brought forward to within 10 feet of the street line where deemed desirable in connection with commercial buildings. Where roads are partially developed, then the building line either has to be as laid down or in line with the existing

building on either side of it, whichever is the greater depth from the road line. A building line of 12 yards gives a particularly pleasing and satisfactory effect for the ordinary suburban road of good character. Deep building lines add so much to the spacious and dignified appearance of a road.

Considerable opposition has been met with at times in regard to setting back factory buildings from the road line. There are several examples in Birmingham proving the added attractiveness of well designed factory areas secured by so setting back.

Parks, Parkways and Recreation Areas.

The necessity of the development of an adequate park and parkway system in connection with the Town Planning Schemes and also in the Re-Planning of the Central Area has been fully recognized. It may be pointed out that the first public park in Birmingham was opened in 1856 and the sections upon Parks and Recreation Grounds and Allotments, indicate the vast progress that has been made in the provision of open spaces.

In the Quinton, Harborne and Edgbaston Scheme, but little land was scheduled for public open spaces, the existing areas being 13 acres, to which provision was made to add 32 acres, making 45 in all, but this was governed by the fact that the City owns a park and recreation grounds immediately adjoining the area of the scheme. In the East Birmingham Scheme, the public open spaces measured 67 acres, to which it is proposed to add additional 122 acres and also 2 acres of private open space.

In the North Yardley and Stechford Scheme, the public open spaces consisted of 36 acres to which are to be added the scheduled areas of 178 acres. In the area comprised in the South Scheme are 180 acres of existing public open spaces to which are to be added 703 acres scheduled in the scheme and 41 acres of permanent private open spaces.

In the South West, the Perry Barr and the Northern Scheme, large areas are proposed to be scheduled for open spaces, but as these schemes are yet only in draft, the actual areas to be so scheduled cannot be given.

It is recognized that to be effective and convenient of access, the Park System has to be planned in connection with the Road System, thus enabling many of the roads to have certain parkway features, and therefore themselves becoming parkways and forming part of the Park System. The great possibilities in undeveloped districts of reserving large areas, most suitable for park lands and parkways, while being much less convenient and suitable for other purposes, have been taken advantage of. Opportunities for the provision of series of chain parks or park areas joined by parkways running along the valleys has been taken advantage of. They serve extensive areas upon either side of them with near and easy access for exercise, recreation or rest. More than 23 miles of such chain parks have been provided for in the schemes. An excellent example is provided in the Chain Park Scheme leading from the centre of Erdington along the valleys of the Witton Brook to Aston Manor, which provides a promenade of about 3½ miles, passing continuously through recreation grounds, parks, by four large boating pools and through parkways and being within easy access of a large and rapidly growing population. This system of providing chain parks and parkways along the valleys also gives necessary facilities in connection with the rivers and streams earlier treated of.

Zoning.

The methods adopted in the various schemes in connection with density zoning have been to adopt :—

Areas restricted to dwelling houses except for special buildings erected with Corporation's consent, subject to public advertisement and the right of appeal to the Ministry.

Optional areas in which all kinds of buildings may be erected.

All other than dwelling houses, however, to be subject to the Corporation's consent. Appeal may be made by owner only.

Areas restricted to maximum of 5, 8, 10, 15 and in a few areas up to 20 houses to the acre.

The areas restricted to defined numbers of houses per acre have received careful consideration in connection with their character and general layouts, so that the former may be maintained without placing undue difficulties in the way of development. The restriction of 15 or more houses to the acre has only been adopted in areas in which a good deal of road development already exists, creating difficulties if the type of existing development is materially altered.

The importance of zoning to the future of the town has been recognized, and particularly the advisability of not making it too rigid, for it is obvious that opportunities must be available for meeting exceptional circumstances, otherwise material harm may be occasioned to the various interests of the City.

The aim has, therefore, been as in the case of the layouts of roads, etc., to avoid laying down zoning regulations in too great detail, in the schemes themselves, but to retain control of the development of the whole area so that changing circumstances may be met, but having tentative schemes prepared dealing with such important matters as restriction of areas for definite purposes, *e.g.*, residential, business and industrial areas and those partly one and partly the other, also heights of buildings, the establishment of shopping and business centres, neighbourhood civic centres. In the central area, it is hoped it will be made possible by future legislation to have zoning regulations in accordance with the above, and which would provide that areas, in consequence of transport facilities, or, for other reasons, are most suitable for factories and unsuitable for houses shall have no further houses built on them, existing houses as they become derelict not being rebuilt and *vice versa* in connection with areas which obviously should be restricted to residential purposes.

Central Area.

It is difficult to describe the Birmingham Town planning Schemes without a short reference to the tentative Re-Planning Scheme, now being evolved for the central area in connection with the main lines of which a large amount of development has been proceeded with.

First class and second class arterial roads, streets and junctions have had their improvement lines planned out, and new sections planned and development is proceeding accordingly. Under the scheme adopted, arrangements which will enable long lengths of widening to be undertaken have been secured without causing any material financial burden to the City. Properties have been acquired as they came into the market at favourable prices, the income obtained from them while they remain until a general improvement is carried out, being sufficient to pay a reasonable interest upon the capital outlay. In many cases the surplus lands left after the improvement has been effected will form valuable sites for buildings.

Civic Centre.

The road approaches to the railway stations, railway and canal wharves, the markets, the civic centre, the residential and industrial areas, in addition to the question of recreational facilities, etc., are receiving very careful consideration.

Certain proposals in regard to the Civic Centre of Birmingham may also be briefly referred to. They are being planned, stretching the term "Civic Centre" to cover far more than just what is usually understood by the term, *i.e.*, the area occupied by the chief public institutions. It is taken to cover not only those, but also the principal central shopping and business areas of the City. The proper layout of such a centre is of the utmost value to the town and its general plan, and the convenient and dignified or other manner in which it is effected will either expedite business and give favourable, or the contrary, impressions.

A large area has been acquired at the lower end of Broad Street and the placing of the Hall of Memory, with a wide, terraced open space running parallel with Broad Street, which is now being laid out, to be followed later by a layout of the whole area upon a bold scale which will provide noble dignified, spacious civic buildings in suitable setting at the rear of it, together with a general layout which will embrace the existing municipal buildings, will eventually provide a civic centre of which this great City may well be proud.

The grouping of the shopping and office areas so as to lead up to the actual civic centre, without the office and warehouse blocks interposing in the continuous direct shopping routes is deemed to be necessary, and the relation of the actual civic centre to the shopping area is also of importance in that the shopping area should not be unduly divided up or blocked by it.

The disadvantage arising from the adoption of positions for large undertakings without concern as to the manner in which they will affect the proper development of a town is exemplified in Birmingham by the way New Street Railway Station cuts athwart the civic and shopping centre of the City, dividing north from south at probably the most vital point from a development point of view, gravely restricting the central shopping and business area and making conditions of traffic between the north and south sides extremely difficult, indirect and inadequate.

To overcome this great block to the proper extension of the shopping and business undertakings, and other development and traffic efficiency of the central area, and the difficulty met with in satisfactorily re-planning it thereby experienced, a scheme is under consideration for connecting, probably by means of a bridge across the station, the south with the north side of the city by direct route.

The policy of acquiring central sites in a town so that their future reconstruction schemes can be properly controlled by the authorities, is one which is followed as far as possible in connection with the City's Re-Planning Schemes.

In addition to the question of the chief civic centre, the establishment of neighbourhood centres has received attention. The public and semi-public buildings which are required in every separate neighbourhood of the town it is recognized should be properly placed and grouped with a view to convenience and architectural effects. New large housing estates in the City have been planned with these important objects in view, for the value of the establishment of community or local neighbourhood interests cannot well be over-estimated.

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION V.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

THE MENTAL HOSPITALS

MENTAL DEFECTIVES



THE CARNEGIE INFANT WELFARE INSTITUTE.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE many and varied activities of the Public Health Department, with the Medical Officer of Health at its head, entail the employment of the following staff of 993 :

Assistant M.O.H's	3	City Analyst	1
Child Welfare Doctors (whole time)	5	Assistant Analysts ..	3
Child Welfare Doctors (part time)	21	Infant Welfare Visitors ..	74
Hospital Doctors	16	Tuberculosis Visitors ..	11
Hospital Nurses	278	General Health Visitors ..	19
Hospital Maids	206	Sanitary Inspectors ..	48
City Bacteriologist	1	Clerks	65
City Assistant Bacteriologist ..	1	Other Officers & Workmen	240

Thirty-two sanitary inspectors investigate complaints of insanitary conditions. Systematic inspection of houses is undertaken, and in this way thousands of nuisances and defects are brought to light every year. Immediate steps are taken to abate nuisances and get defects remedied by service of notice on the responsible person, the following being the chief requirements of the orders served : general repairs to houses, cleansing of walls and ceilings, provision of better ventilation, provision of better water supply, improvement of closet arrangements, repairing and cleansing of drains, paving and cleansing of yards, removal of animals from unsuitable places, and removal of rubbish and filth.

What the Special Inspectors are Doing.

Special inspectors (thirteen in number) visit common lodging houses to see that they are kept clean and are not overcrowded ; inspect canal boats ; watch factory chimneys and take action against persons who break the regulations as to the emission of black smoke ; inspect milkshops to see that the milk is not kept under dirty conditions ; visit workshops to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory ; purchase samples of food and drugs to check adulteration ; and observe shops to see that the regulations are carried out as to early closing and other matters.

Sanitary Inspectors and Infectious Diseases.

Cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric (typhoid) fever, erysipelas, etc., notifiable by the doctor in attendance, are at once visited by a sanitary inspector, who investigates the sanitary condition of the premises, makes arrangements for disinfection, gives instruction for children to be kept away from school where necessary, and, in occasional instances, for older people to absent themselves from work. All cases of diphtheria are removed to one of the City hospitals if the doctor so desires. Cases of scarlet fever are also taken there if the accommodation at home is insufficient.

Bacteriological examinations are made free of charge at the City Bacteriological Laboratory, Lodge Road, and are found of great assistance to doctors in the diagnosis of such diseases as diphtheria, pulmonary tuberculosis, and enteric fever.

Diphtheria anti-toxin, which has proved so efficacious, is issued free of charge to doctors who need it from the larger police stations, as well as from the Council House. It has recently become possible to protect

children against diphtheria in somewhat the same way as they are protected against smallpox, by means of vaccination, and the department has now made arrangements for young children, whose parents are willing, to be immunised in this manner.

Parents to Tell Teacher.

When measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, or mumps occurs in a house in which there are school children the parents are required to notify the head teacher, who, in turn, informs the Public Health Department. The home is visited by one of the nurses who act as health visitors, and she gives advice where necessary as to the nursing of the patient, and instructions as to which, if any, of the children in the house must stay away from school.

Infectious Hospitals.

There are two City hospitals for the treatment of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria—one in Yardley Road, Little Bromwich, where there is accommodation for 466 patients, and one in Lodge Road, Winson Green, where there are 253 beds.

For the disinfection of clothing and bedding which might carry infection there is a disinfecting station at Bacchus Road, Winson Green, where articles are disinfected by exposure to super-heated steam.

Limiting the Ravages of Consumption.

Tuberculosis in one form or another causes an appalling amount of sickness and mortality, and a very large amount of effort has been expended in trying to limit its ravages. Every case has to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health by the doctor in attendance, and a visit is promptly paid by a tuberculosis visitor to advise the patient as to what steps he can take to



YARDLEY ROAD SANATORIUM.

improve his own health, to prevent his relatives from catching the complaint, and also to enquire whether anyone else in the household is unwell and possibly already slightly affected by the disease.

If doctor and patient desire it, an appointment is made for the patient to be examined at the Broad Street Dispensary by one of the Tuberculosis Medical Officers, who verifies the diagnosis and decides the treatment necessary. Most new cases examined are recommended for admission to one of the City Sanatoria. There are four of these—one at Yardley Road, Little Bromwich; one at West Heath, near Northfield; one at Romsley Hill, Clent; and one at Salterley Grange, near Cheltenham; the total number of beds provided being over 600.

During his stay in the sanatorium the patient is not only treated for his illness, but is also further instructed as to how he can keep well when he returns home, and what precautions he must take in the interests of the people with whom he lives and works.

Periodical Visits to Consumptives.

After return from the sanatorium, treatment is continued for a time as an out-patient at Broad Street Dispensary, and when that is completed the patient is urged to see the doctor there from time to time. He is also visited periodically at his home by the tuberculosis visitor until a permanent cure has been established, perhaps after a period of several years.

A good many tuberculosis patients live under over-crowded conditions, and where it is practicable the department loans out an open-air shelter for the patient's use, especially to sleep in. Beds are also let on hire purchase or loan in cases where the patient could not otherwise have a bed to himself.

Every care is taken to guard against the spread of tuberculosis through the use of milk from infected cows. All cows kept in the City are regularly examined by the Corporation's veterinary surgeons, and any which are found to be tubercular are removed from milking. In addition to this, samples are taken of all milk coming into the City from the country, and if any is found to be tubercular the cows at the farm from which it came are examined. An arrangement has also been made with a number of farmers for cows to be tested by the Corporation's veterinary surgeons, and any which show tuberculosis are removed at once from the herds, so that the herds can be certified as being tubercle free.

All this work has not been in vain. During the past ten years the prevalence of the disease, as shown by the new cases notified, has been reduced by about one-half, while the mortality has been reduced by about one-third.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Not so very many years ago it was quite usual for about one-fifth of all the babies born in Birmingham to die before they were a year old, and this serious loss of life has led to special steps being taken to prevent so high a mortality.

In 1915 an Act of Parliament was passed making it compulsory upon the father or any person in attendance on the mother to notify the Public Health Department for the district immediately a baby is born. In Birmingham, when the baby is a few days old, a visit to its home is paid by an Infant Welfare Visitor—a trained nurse who goes to give advice, where necessary, as to the best steps to be taken to ensure that the baby grows up to be strong and healthy. She also invites the mother to bring her baby

to the nearest Welfare Centre, where she can see the doctor in charge about her own health and the health of her child, and where the baby can be weighed at frequent intervals.

At these Welfare Centres—there are now twenty-five of them—clinics are also held for expectant mothers, who are able in this way to get medical advice which may make all the difference between a safe and satisfactory confinement and a dangerous one. Health talks are also given while they are at the centres, and classes are held in cookery, sewing, and housewifery.

Where Artificial Sunlight can be Obtained.

Five years ago, through the generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Carnegie Institute in Hunters Road, Handsworth, was opened as a model welfare centre.

In addition to the usual programme of ante-natal clinics, infant consultations, cookery, sewing, and mothercraft classes, there are also dental clinics for mothers and children whose teeth need attention; X-ray clinics, for the diagnosis of rickets and other infantile complaints; breast feeding clinics for the restoration of breast milk in mothers who have been unable to breast-feed their babies; light clinics, where the benefits of artificial sunlight can be obtained; and a small hospital ward where obscure cases of ill-health in infants or their mothers can be investigated.

These special clinics are open to cases residing in any part of the City who are sent to them by the doctors attached to the centres they attend for ordinary purposes.

All these efforts to reduce the mortality amongst infants and young children have met with a large measure of success, the infant mortality rate—that is the number of infants who die out of every thousand born—having fallen from about 150 per 1,000 twenty years ago to less than half that proportion last year.

Health Statistics.

An important part of the work of the department is the collection and publication of health statistics. These are of great value as showing year after year the improvement or otherwise in the number of deaths and the prevalence of certain forms of illness. They are also of great value for comparing the healthiness of various areas of the city one with another, thus indicating which are the districts that are most in need of attention.

The striking fall in the general death-rate for the city is indicated in the figures below:

MEAN DEATH-RATE FROM ALL CAUSES PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

1871-1875 (Old City Area)	..	..	..	25.2
1876-1880	..	..	..	22.8
1881-1885	..	..	..	20.7
1886-1890	..	..	..	20.2
1891-1895	..	..	..	20.3
1896-1900	..	..	..	20.5
1901-1905 (Present Area)	..	..	..	16.5
1906-1910	..	..	..	15.0
1911-1915	..	..	..	14.6
1916-1920	..	..	..	13.4
1921-1925	..	..	..	11.5

The diagram below shows the division of the pre-extension City into thirty electoral wards, such wards being used for the purpose of tabulating the health statistics of the City.

When the death-rate in the different wards is considered it is found that great variations in healthiness still exist. The mean death-rate in the five years 1921-1925 was as follows :

Central Wards.

St. Paul's	14.5	St. Martin's and Deritend ..	15.0
St. Mary's	16.6	Market Hall	14.0
Duddeston and Nechells ..	13.4	Ladywood	13.1
St. Bartholomew's	14.6		

Middle Ring.

Lozells	12.2	Sparkbrook	11.1
Aston	12.5	Balsall Heath	12.0
Washwood Heath	10.0	Edgbaston	11.0
Saltley	9.4	Rotton Park	11.5
Small Heath	10.3	All Saints'	11.8



Outer Ring.

Soho	11.3	Sparkhill	9.8
Sandwell	9.3	Moseley and King's Heath..	10.9
Handsworth	9.7	Selly Oak	8.9
Erdington North	9.8	King's Norton	8.4
Erdington South	9.1	Northfield	8.9
Yardley	8.9	Harborne	9.6
Accock's Green	9.1		

Fortunately, the mortality in the less healthy wards is improving more rapidly than in the other parts of the City, as can be seen from the figures below :

MEAN DEATH-RATE PER 1,000

	1912-1915	1921-1925	Decrease.
Central Wards ..	20.6	14.5	30%
Middle Ring ..	13.3	11.2	16%
Outer Ring ..	10.5	9.5	10%

It will be seen that fifteen years ago the death-rate in the bad wards was twice as high as in the good ones, while now it is only half as high again. There can be no doubt that a large part of the improvement shown in the foregoing figures is the direct result of the public services carried out by the Corporation through its Health Department.

The head offices are in the Council House, Congreve Street, to where all enquiries and complaints should be addressed.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

PATIENTS in Birmingham's mental hospitals are in the care of an Asylums Committee, who are elected from members of the City Council, and who administer the three divisions of the City Mental Hospital at Winson Green, Rubery, and Hollymoor by means of two sub-committees.

Provision was first made for the treatment and maintenance of lunatics in 1845. In November of that year a committee was appointed by the Council to consider the best means of carrying out the powers of the Act of the 8th and 9th Victoria, Cap. 126 (1845), entitled "An Act to Amend the Laws for the Regulation and Provision of Lunatic Asylums for Counties and Boroughs, and for the Maintenance and Care of Pauper Lunatics in England."

On the report of this committee it was decided to provide an asylum for the 199 lunatic paupers of the three parishes constituting the borough, the members being : Birmingham, 166 ; Edgbaston, 6 ; and Aston, 27. As the population of the borough in 1845 was 201,789 the pauper lunatics were returned at about one in a thousand. In 1880 the population was 396,446, and the lunatics either in the asylum or provided for elsewhere numbered 828, more than two per thousand.

Land Bought at Winson Green and Rubery Hill.

In 1847 twenty acres of land at Winson Green were bought and an asylum, with lodges, farm buildings, and wharf, was built during the ensuing three years. The institution provided accommodation for 300 patients. Additions have been made from time to time, and Winson Green now has accommodation for 624 patients.



THE ENTRANCE BLOCK, HOLLYMOOR.

In 1876 a site at Rubery Hill, Northfield, of 151 acres was purchased and buildings erected there which provided accommodation for about 625 patients. Extensions have since taken place, bringing the official accommodation up to 817.

In 1900 121 acres of land were acquired at Hollymoor Farm, adjoining the Rubery Hill estate, and a building erected for 604 patients. This was called the Hollymoor Annexe of Rubery Hill, and, with the building at the latter site, forms a conjoined hospital under one administration.

Extensions at Hollymoor and Rubery.

Since the war an additional twenty-seven acres have been purchased adjoining the Hollymoor Estate, and under an unemployment relief scheme the following buildings erected for the Rubery Hill and Hollymoor Hospital :



FEMALE RECEPTION WARD, RUBERY.



BUNGALOW ANNEXES, HOLLYMOOR AND RUBERY.

Three bungalows (each for forty patients), four day rooms, and a house for a married medical officer. A special treatment block—comprising operation, anæsthetic, sterilizing, hydrotherapy, electrical treatment, and surgeon's and clinical rooms—was added in 1926, and many other improvements, such as the provision of enlarged ward gardens and a road uniting the two estates of Hollymoor and Rubery Hill, have been effected under a similar scheme. Hollymoor has long stretches of pleasant walks for patients covering nearly four miles.

The enlargement of the City in 1911 made fresh demands on the City's asylum accommodation. In 1914, besides the accommodation for 2,145 patients provided by the Asylums Committee at Winson Green, Rubery Hill, and Hollymoor, contracts had been made with the authorities of seven outside asylums for the care of 540 patients. By January 1st, 1927, provision had been made at Winson Green for 755, Rubery Hill 857, and Hollymoor 644, and only 321 patients were in external asylums. The cost of providing these institutions respectively was £152, £194, and £415 per bed.

During the war Rubery Hill and Hollymoor were loaned to the War Office and converted into military hospitals, and the patients formerly housed therein were, by arrangements made by the Board of Control, accommodated elsewhere.

Until 1922 the Winson Green Mental Hospital had been the principal reception hospital, and the other institutions had functioned as homes for chronic and protracted cases. During the year 1922 a scheme came into operation whereby fresh cases were admitted directly to Rubery Hill and Hollymoor from the southern two-thirds of the City, thus giving each institution a proportion of new work and lightening the load of direct reception cases on the original hospital.

Research Work : Legal and Economic Handicaps.

It is recognised that mental disorder is the expression of a profound bodily disturbance, the exact limits of which are difficult to define at present, and more research work needs to be directed to it both for humanitarian and economic reasons, but this branch of medical activity has had prejudice and ignorance to overcome, as well as legal and economic handicaps.



DAY ROOM EXTENSION, SHEWING FLAT ROOF FOR OPEN-AIR TREATMENT.

In 1922 the Asylums Committee co-operated with the University of Birmingham to set up a Joint Board of Research as to Mental Disorder, under the chairmanship of Sir Gilbert Barling, and established and equipped a large research laboratory at Hollymoor, with the late Sir Frederick W. Mott as honorary director, to investigate problems associated with mental disorder along such lines as were thought fit. It was hoped that other local authorities would join in the scheme, but legal obstacles at present act as a bar to that development. The Birmingham Board of Guardians has, nevertheless, associated their Monyhull Colony with the scheme.

Visiting Specialists.

In addition, the committee has appointed visiting specialists in different branches of surgery, etc., to visit regularly their hospitals, to consult with the resident medical staff on bodily disease processes found in the patients and to treat such as they are able in an intensive manner. An up-to-date



THE RECREATION HALL HOLLYMOOR.

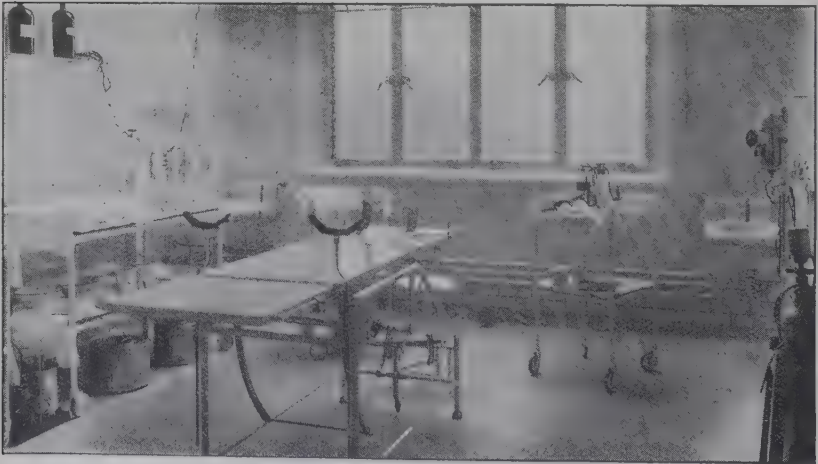
X-ray plant has been installed and found a valuable aid to diagnosis of hidden conditions. The result of a practical examination of the bodies of newly-admitted mental patients reveals a multitude of physical abnormalities and disturbances often of a protracted and intractable character, and the treatment of these conditions, where possible, should result in a general improvement of the patient.

It is hoped that as a result of treatment along these special lines, the discharge rate will be augmented, the annual increment of patients lessened, the physical as well as the mental capacity of the patient on discharge enhanced, and the re-admission rate and the duration of stay in hospital reduced. The results of the past year's activities at Rubery Hill and Hollymoor Hospital give ground for encouragement.

Upkeep and Hospital Personnel.

The maintenance and repair costs are kept separately. The former is the cost of the maintenance of patients and a charge on the Guardians, while the latter is the cost of upkeep of buildings, etc., and is a charge on the City Fund and Rate Account. In 1878 the actual weekly cost of maintenance was 8s. 6d.; in 1882, 9s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; in 1910, 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; in 1914, 11s. 2d.; in 1924 the actual weekly charge made was 26s. 3d., and in 1927 26s. 10d.

At the head of each hospital is a medical superintendent who combines the duties of chief executive officer and chief physician, and co-ordinates the work of different sections of the hospital personnel. This includes medical staff (visiting and resident), male and female nurses, as well as farm and garden, engineering and works, clerical and stores, and domestic employees. They constitute, under the Birmingham Asylums Committee, a band of workers always aiming at the restoration of the mentally afflicted to the normal walks of life.



THE OPERATING THEATRE, RUBERY.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

ONE of the more serious of the social duties of the Corporation is that of dealing with the City's mental defectives, and some reference is made to this work in the chapter on Education (Special Schools) and also in the chapter dealing with Mental Hospitals. All matters relating to the exercise by the Council of their powers under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1919, are, however, dealt with by the Mental Deficiency Act Committee, which works in co-operation with the Education and Asylums Committees, and is also in constant touch with the Guardians.

So little is known generally of the activities of the Mental Deficiency Act Committee that it may not be inappropriate briefly to set out their duties : (a) To ascertain what persons within their area are defectives to be dealt with under the Act otherwise than at the instance of the parent or guardian ; (b) To keep such persons under suitable supervision or deal with them by sending them to institutions or by placing them under guardianship ; (c) To provide accommodation for such persons when sent to institutions in pursuance of orders under the Act, and for their maintenance in and their conveyance to and from such institutions ; (d) To make provision for the guardianship of persons placed under guardianship by orders under the Act ; (e) If they think fit, to maintain or contribute towards the maintenance of a defective placed in an institution or "approved home," or to contribute towards the expenses of guardianship of any defectives placed under guardianship at the instance of parent or guardian.

There is no obligation upon the Committee to deal with mentally-defective children between the ages of 7 and 16 years who are attending a Special School, and under the care of the Education Committee, nor mentally-defective persons in charge of the Guardians.

CRIMINAL DEFECTIVES.

Persons brought before the Court for petty offences and suspected of being mentally defective are usually remanded for medical examination. On being satisfied that a person comes within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Acts, the Court directs the officers of the Local Authority to present a petition to a Judicial Authority for the defective to be sent to an institution or placed under guardianship.*

Birmingham, with a population of nearly a million, has a large number of mental defectives, and as at the present time only the most urgent cases can be dealt with, there is always a long waiting list by reason of the difficulty in finding institutional accommodation.

At present, Birmingham places its defectives under contract in certified institutions and in Poor Law institutions, and, in order to provide local accommodation, Birmingham acquired in 1925 Coleshill Hall, together with 180 acres of land, which is now being prepared as a modern institution for the treatment of mental defectives. The adaptation of the Hall and the erection of small homes as supplementary accommodation and quarters for the staff has been proceeding, and it is hoped that shortly this Home, which is situated amongst charming surroundings, will be available for the treatment of mental defectives.

*NOTE—Although the Court itself can make an order for a defective to be sent to an institution, or placed under guardianship, the Birmingham Justices, almost in every instance, have directed the local authority to present the petition.

W.S.B.



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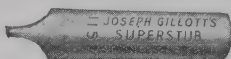
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION VI.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

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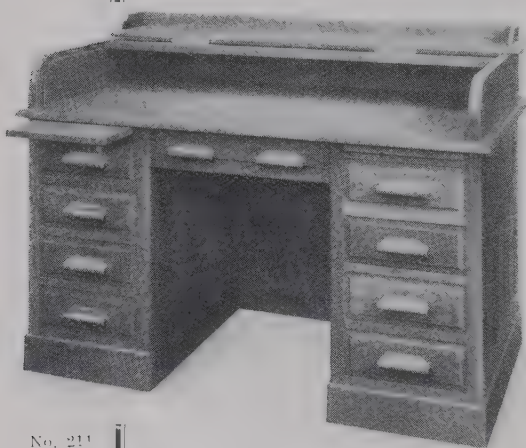
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THE EDUCATION SERVICE.

OVER £1,800,000 is now being spent annually on education in Birmingham—rather more than half from the National Exchequer, the remainder from the rates. This, however, by no means represents the total expenditure of the citizens under this heading, for there are numerous institutions providing instruction which are self-supporting and make no call on public funds.

The Education Department has a staff of over 5,000, and those citizens anxious to discover exactly where the money goes will find ample material to satisfy their curiosity in the annual budgets of the Education Committee, or, in a somewhat less arid form, in the last report on the work of the committee.

What is being done or attempted in the various branches into which, by tradition or for administrative convenience, the work of the Education Department is divided, is the purpose of this chapter to explain. But it must be remembered that nearly a generation will elapse before the full effect of what the schools are doing now can be properly appraised.

Nursery Schools and Elementary Education.

Although the School Attendance Branch, with a view to anticipating future demands for school accommodation, takes due notice of the arrival in the world of the citizen-to-be, official relations between him or her and



Photograph]

[*Ernest H. Fletcher.*

THE INFANTS' DEPARTMENT IN A MODERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



SCHOOL CLINIC, SHEEP STREET.

the department are not usually established before the age of five. Most people agree that this is quite early enough under favourable conditions, but the experience of the School Medical Service leaves no doubt that while nearly all children are born healthy, a depressingly large proportion, through lack of proper care, unhygienic surroundings, or other causes inseparable from City life, has developed some kind of physical defect before they come to school.

On physical grounds alone, therefore, much may be said for bringing children into contact with the Education Department at an even earlier age. But special schools for the under fives, usually called nursery schools, are expensive, and at present there are only two of them in Birmingham. Two years ago the experiment was begun of attaching a nursery class to an ordinary infants' school, and this may, perhaps, provide a practicable solution of the difficulty in the more congested areas.

At the end of the term during which the pupil becomes fourteen, the legal obligation of parents to send a child to school ceases. More and more children are passing on each year from the elementary school to some form of further education. Yet the fact remains that six out of every seven Birmingham children are launched into the world at fourteen, and of these six at least four will in all probability never become members of any educational institution again.

The Critical School-leaving Age.

Whether society can afford to release so early and at so critical an age such a large proportion of its potential brain-power is a burning educational question.

Over fifty years of discussion have failed to secure any general agreement as to the nature and limits of the aims which the elementary school should set itself to achieve. Can it be expected to turn out children by the age of fourteen who are reasonably well equipped to meet the calls which will be made upon them as individuals, as citizens, and as bread-winners or home-makers? Problems like these are exercising and will continue to exercise for years to come the minds of those who, in Birmingham and elsewhere, recognise that the future of civilisation must depend largely on their successful solution.

Experience and experiment are doing something to clear the way. It has been realised, for instance, that the task before the elementary teacher, which is formidable enough under the most favourable circumstances, becomes impossible when classes are over-large and buildings ill-found, and many of the children in them handicapped by physical defects. So in Birmingham in recent years effort has been directed to reducing the size of classes and to bringing the older schools into line with modern standards of accommodation.

Progress has been made in both directions, yet a great deal remains to be done. The problem of buildings is a serious one. In some degree it is being eased by the fall in the birth-rate and by the gradual moving out of the population from the centre of the City to the new suburban housing areas. This drift to the outskirts explains why, in spite of the fact that the elementary school population is less than it was ten years ago, the committee has to face a substantial building programme in the next few years.

Physical Training, Organized Games, and Playing Fields.

A feature of elementary school life which has received increasing attention since the war is physical training. Far-reaching changes have resulted from a different conception of its aim, and little is seen now of the somewhat formal, even mechanical, exercises based on the old military drill. The present day "syllabus" exercises require alertness of mind, quick decision, and instant response. Children enter into them with great zest, developing mentally as well as physically.

The last few years have witnessed also a great advance in the playing of organized games, for which every available space is brought into use. The most beneficial and the most enjoyed games are those taken on grass in the department's playing fields, or in the parks by arrangement with the Parks Committee. The department set out a few years ago to obtain fields for every part of the City, and they now have eighteen, averaging eight and two-thirds acres apiece. In addition, the Parks Committee have allotted spaces in the parks for the use of children attending the Elementary schools. Ground has been obtainable only towards the outskirts of the City, and to make full use of the fields in school time, the children are carried by tramcar, the majority by special cars run for the purpose. So great has been the demand made on the fields, and so obvious the benefits, that there is need to double the number.

School Medical Service and Parental Responsibility.

When established in 1908, the School Medical Service was concerned only with the routine medical inspection of children in elementary schools, but after three or four years' experience the belief that inspection should be followed by something more tangible in the way of treatment became a conviction.

A scheme was devised for the prescription and provision of spectacles for children with defective vision, for the surgical treatment of children with enlarged tonsils and adenoids, dental treatment, X-ray treatment, and a host of ill-defined minor ailments which had a serious effect upon the well-being of the children.

Within the last few years, remedial exercises have been provided at two centres for children suffering from curvature of the spine, narrow chest, round shoulders, flat foot, wry neck, and similar deformities. During the last two years ultra-violet ray treatment has been available for children exhibiting certain forms of general debility with anæmia, for those with late rickets, various skin complaints, and chronic nasal discharges.

The contention that the provision of a highly-organized system of medical treatment associated with the public elementary schools tend to undermine parental responsibility has been anticipated and met by the decision to make a charge for all forms of treatment (except minor ailments and X-ray treatment for ringworm), and, so that such charge shall not deprive any child of its right to treatment, the fee is remitted or reduced in necessitous cases. Provision is also made for the medical inspection of pupils in the secondary schools and other institutions for higher education.

The work of the School Medical Service is also concerned with the raising of the standard of personal cleanliness in the schools. How successful this has been may be gauged from the fact that whereas in 1914 only 53.4 per cent. of the children were certified as clean, this figure had risen in 1927 to 82.78 per cent.



CROPWOOD RESIDENTIAL OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

Provision for Blind, Deaf, and Physically Defective.

There are a number of children who, through some handicap, mental or physical, do not fit easily into the elementary schools scheme. For these special arrangements have to be made.

Blind children are placed for their education at the Edgbaston Institution for the Blind, or, prior to the age of nine years, at the Branch Institution at Harborne, although a few children are sent to other institutions in various parts of the country. Partially blind children—i.e., children who, while possessing a fair measure of sight, are yet unsuited for education in the ordinary elementary schools—are provided for by means of special classes held at the Edgbaston Institution and at Whitehead Road, Aston, the former serving the southern half of the City and the latter the northern.

Deaf children are accommodated either at the Gem Street or Moseley Road Day Schools, except that in special circumstances a few children are sent to the Edgbaston or some other institution for the deaf.

For crippled children two day schools at George Street West and Little Green Lane are provided, the pupils being conveyed between their homes and the schools by Corporation omnibuses. A number of scholars suffering from heart affections also attend these schools.

There is a residential school for physically-defective children at Baskerville House, Harborne. It accommodates boys and girls, and was first intended for those crippled children who could not attend either of the day schools mentioned above, but it is now mainly occupied by children suffering from rheumatic affection of the heart. Owing to earlier advantage of remedial agencies being taken, the number of children over the age of seven years crippled with orthopædic defects has diminished.

Open-air Schools for Weakly Children and Special Schools.

For weakly, debilitated, and anæmic children two open-air schools are maintained—a Day School (Uffculme) at Moseley accommodating 120 children, and a Residential School (Cropwood) at Blackwell with accommodation for eighty children—both gifts to the Corporation from Mr. and Mrs. Barrow Cadbury. They are far from meeting the needs of the whole of the weakly children, especially as attendance at the Uffculme School has necessarily to be restricted to those resident in Central or South Birmingham. Moreover, the Cropwood School can only accommodate children of one sex at a time, its use being reserved for boys and girls alternately at intervals of two years. Consequently a site has been acquired on the north side of the City for a day open-air school to meet the requirements of that part of the town, and plans for the proposed school are now under consideration.

Before the passing of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, authorising the establishment of special schools or classes, such classes had already been formed in Birmingham, the first being opened in 1894. There are now eight day schools for the mentally-defective, with room for 1,038 children, but the demand for accommodation is heavy, and two additional schools—one in the north-west and one in the south-east district—are needed. A site for the former has been purchased.

About 100 mentally-defective or epileptic children are maintained at the Monyhull Residential Special School—established under an agreement between the Board of Guardians and the Education Authority in 1913. The Guardians also maintain there educable mentally-defective children

for whom they are responsible, and any spare places not required from time to time are let to other authorities.

Provision of Meals.

Under the Education Act, 1921, the Education Committee exercise the power to supply meals to those children in elementary schools who by reason of lack of food are unable to take full advantage of the education provided for them. In practice this has meant the supply of meals free to children of parents whose income, in relation to the number in the family, falls below a certain amount. The committee's power also extends to the provision of food for children whose parents can afford to feed them adequately but fail to do so, and for children whose parents can afford and are prepared to pay for meals which it may be convenient for them to be provided with at school. The committee have not exercised their power in the latter case, and have rarely needed to do so in the former. When the need does arise the committee are required to recover the cost from the parents.

Substantial dinners are provided in eleven different centres. The feeding kitchens are on the school premises and the meals are supplied in the school or, when weather permits, in the open air. In those areas where the numbers are so small as not to warrant the establishment of a kitchen, the meals are supplied through private catering.

The following table shows how widely the demand for free meals has fluctuated in the last eleven years, and how essential it is to have in working order an organization capable of indefinite expansion at very short notice.

Year ended 31st March	Expenditure.			No. of Meals.	Daily Average.	Average Cost per Meal.	
						Food only.	Total.
	£.	s.	d.				
1918	832	10	6	28,355	78	3.7d.	7.0d.
1919	405	16	2	13,587	37	4.6d.	7.1d.
1920	511	0	10	23,597	64	4.2d.	5.2d.
1921	3,608	4	5	138,767	380	4.9d.	6.2d.
1922	31,085	6	6	1,454,914	3,986	3.7d.	5.1d.
1923	10,357	11	3	440,329	1,206	3.8d.	5.6d.
1924	5,739	7	5	251,753	688	3.8d.	5.4d.
1925	5,380	15	9	244,341	669	3.7d.	5.3d.
1926	5,150	14	2	225,993	619	3.8d.	5.5d.
1927	6,390	13	1	333,712	914	3.3d.	4.6d.
1928	7,175	15	9	381,136	1,041	3.2d.	4.5d.

Facilities for Higher Education.

When a scholar in an elementary school reaches the age of eleven the time has come for two decisions to be taken.

First, whether he (or she as the case may be) has the ability which will enable him with benefit to himself and the community to take a course at a secondary school; second, whether his parents can afford the additional expenditure and loss of earnings which such a course would involve. In the former case no doubt the decisive voice will lie with his present teacher. In the latter a great deal will depend in many cases on what the Education Committee is able to offer in the way of financial assistance. If the brains

are there, and there is a reasonable prospect of the necessary funds being forthcoming, then he will probably sit for the general admission examination to secondary schools, which is held about Easter in each year.

A Comprehensive Sifting Process.

The arrangements made for conducting this admission examination and the scheme for awarding maintenance allowances, free places, and remission of fees to the successful candidates are as comprehensive as any that exist in the country to-day. The main features of this sifting process are briefly told.

Prior to the examination a complete survey is made of the potential brain power of the City to see that clever children do not miss their chance through the ignorance or apathy of their parents. Then comes the examination itself, which covers all the secondary schools. So far as the total secondary school accommodation allows, the examination arrangements by giving each candidate a choice of three schools, provide against the possibility of a child of ability missing his chance of a secondary education altogether because the particular school at which he applied happened to be one where the competition for entry was keener than elsewhere.

Finally, the scheme offers financial assistance graded to meet the circumstances of the parents and the increasing cost for the pupil as he gets older or mounts to some higher rung of the educational ladder, such as a university.

Secondary School Accommodation.

Neither in Birmingham, nor probably in any other part of the country, are there sufficient secondary school places for all the children who could



AN OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

occupy them with profit. There must at present be competition for entry, and in the interests of the community, as well as in fairness to the individual, this competition is carried out in a way that is likely to pick out the best candidates.

A survey carried out after the war showed that Birmingham possessed only 6.6 secondary school places per 1,000 of its population, compared with 11.8 places in other large provincial cities. In view of this the Education Committee were authorised to undertake a substantial programme of developments.

In addition to the school for girls at Erdington which was opened in 1918, a school for 500 boys has been provided at Moseley, a school for 500 girls at King's Norton, and a further mixed school for 500 pupils has just been completed at Saltley. In addition extensions are taking place at certain of the grammar schools of the King Edward VI. Foundation and at the Handsworth Grammar School for boys. Provision is also being made to enlarge the George Dixon Secondary Schools for boys and girls, and sites have been secured for new secondary schools at Erdington and Washwood Heath. It is anticipated that by 1930 the number of places per 1,000 of the population will have been increased to 8.4.

This increase in the provision of accommodation has been accompanied by progress in the schools themselves. The average school life and the average leaving age have risen appreciably, the amount of advanced work has considerably increased, and there is a steadily growing flow of pupils to the universities. To make possible that variety in the instruction provided which is essential if the secondary school pupil when he leaves



Photograph]

[Ernest H. Fletcher.

MOSELEY SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

is to meet the varying demands which the world will make upon him, it has been decided to increase the size of secondary schools wherever possible to enable them to accommodate 500 pupils.

Junior Technical and Commercial Schools.

As the age range for admission to secondary schools is at present ten and a half to thirteen years, candidates in the ordinary course will have two chances. It must not, however, be thought that if a child fails to secure admission before reaching thirteen his prospects of any kind of full-time further education are finished. There are two Junior Schools of Art, a Junior Technical School, a Junior Commercial School, and plans are in hand for the provision of an additional Junior Commercial School. These provide what is in many ways comparable with a secondary school training, in addition to special attention given to studies of a vocational nature. The course is for two or three years, and pupils are normally admitted between the ages of thirteen and fourteen—i.e., in the last year of their elementary school life.

In spite of what has been done, the elementary school remains the finishing school for six out of every seven boys and girls. This large remainder contains an immense variety of material, and to find a curriculum which in the time available will do anything like justice to their needs as individuals, as citizens, and as bread-winners or home-makers, is the great quest on which educationists are constantly engaged. Many think the quest will never be ended while the leaving age remains as low as fourteen.

Senior Elementary Schools Proposal.

A conviction born of practical experience is that if the older children remaining in elementary schools are to have the training for which their individual needs and aptitudes call, they must be collected together in schools of such size and with such equipment and staff as may make the necessary variety of curriculum economically as well as educationally practicable. This is now being done on a small scale, and it is proposed as opportunity offers to organize senior elementary schools for those children between eleven and fourteen who do not proceed to secondary and similar schools.

The senior school for children from eleven to fourteen, if it is for about 400 children, will comprise about nine classes—i.e., three for each age group. This will allow of the children being carefully selected and for different aptitudes to be catered for by varying curricula.

Whatever these schools may accomplish, it is generally recognised that they can only touch the fringe of the adolescent problem. An important departmental committee has recommended the raising of the school age to fifteen as a first step towards its solution, and others who have had practical experience in day continuation schools see in them the solution which is most likely to prove feasible in large industrial areas.

Continued Education.

When boys and girls start work they may continue their education at the Evening Institutes which are scattered all over the City.

Over 12,000 students a year find them worth attending, and for a considerable number of them they provide a path *via* the Senior Technical and Commercial Colleges to the higher ranks of industry and the professions.

There are signs that employers of juvenile labour, who recognise the advantage and the duty of providing educational facilities for their young

employees, are in favour of releasing them for part-time education in the day-time. The Day Continuation Schools at Bournville, which were originally supported almost entirely by two large firms in the district, now contain employees from several other firms and Corporation departments, while similar classes have recently been started in the centre of the City in response to requests from industry for this form of training.

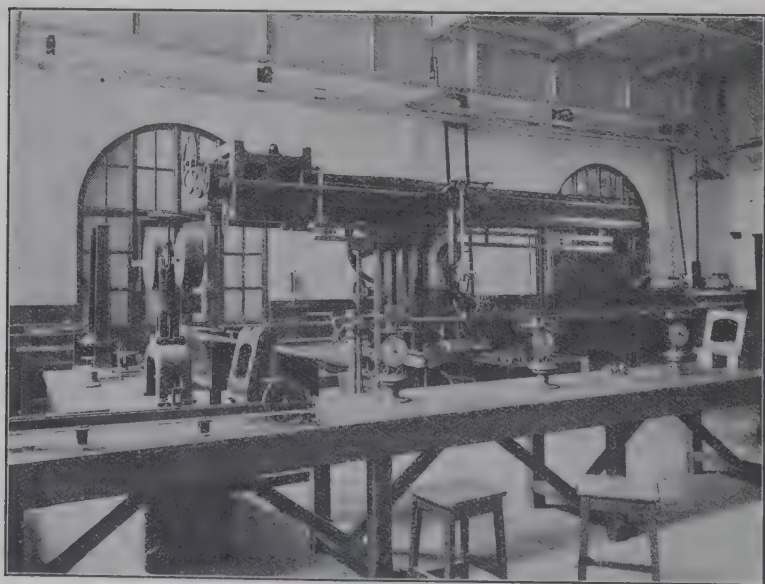
Technical and Commercial Colleges and Schools of Art.

Adequate provision for instruction in technical, commercial, and art subjects in a large industrial centre like Birmingham is important. The City possesses three Technical Colleges, three Schools of Art with a number of branch schools, and a Commercial College, which at the moment has no permanent home of its own and is housed at the University in Edmund Street. Instruction in technical and commercial subjects at a less advanced stage also forms a large part of the work in the Evening Institutes.

During the last few years there has been a continued expansion of all branches of Technical Education. One of the most important developments has been the large increase in the number of full-time day classes, and the continued growth in the number of apprentices sent by an increasing number of firms for part-time classes during the day. The Committee are anxious to develop this form of technical training further, but are hampered by the inadequacy of the present accommodation.

School-leaving Conferences on Future Employment.

The interest of the Education Department in the children does not cease when the full-time day school is left behind. It is desired that the pupils shall make the best use in industry and commerce of the training they have undergone. Therefore an organization was set up as far back as 1911 with the object of giving after-care where necessary, and ensuring



MECHANICS LABORATORY, CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

as far as possible that boys and girls entered the employment for which they were best fitted ; also that employers obtained the young employees who were most likely to make good in their particular kind of work.

The children are first brought in contact with this organization, conducted by the Juvenile Employment and Welfare Department, shortly before they leave school. Officers attend choice of employment conferences at all schools each term, at which the parents of children about to leave are invited to be present. At these conferences questions affecting the children's welfare are discussed, and such matters as continued education and future employment receive special attention. Not only is advice as to suitable employment offered, but efforts are made to find suitable openings. Nearly fifty Group Care Committees exist, comprising 1,200 voluntary helpers, with which all the elementary schools are associated.

In addition to dealing with children when they leave school, the department continues to render assistance to young people until they are eighteen, and is also responsible for the administration of Unemployment Insurance Acts for persons between sixteen and eighteen years of age. The social requirements of adolescents are watched with a sympathetic interest, and considerable assistance is rendered to organizations by granting the free use of school accommodation. Co-operation exists with the Public Libraries Committee, and arrangements have been made whereby the Education Department is responsible for books loaned to young people, as explained in the chapter on the public libraries.

During a year over 94,000 visits to the department are made by young people requiring advice or assistance, and situations are found for about 7,000 each year. To ensure success it is necessary to keep in close touch with schools, social organizations, and employers, and it is essential that the officers should have a practical knowledge of industrial conditions.

The activities of the Juvenile Employment and Welfare Department are not entirely confined to children over school age. Evening Play Centres are organized for school children, organized games are promoted in playgrounds and recreation grounds during the summer evenings, and camp schools are also arranged.

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to October 1928)

*See also pages 162 (Billesley Farm) and 164 (Dad's Lane),
for illustrations of work carried out by this firm.*

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION VII.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

THE CITY ESTATES

ALLOTMENTS & SMALL HOLDINGS

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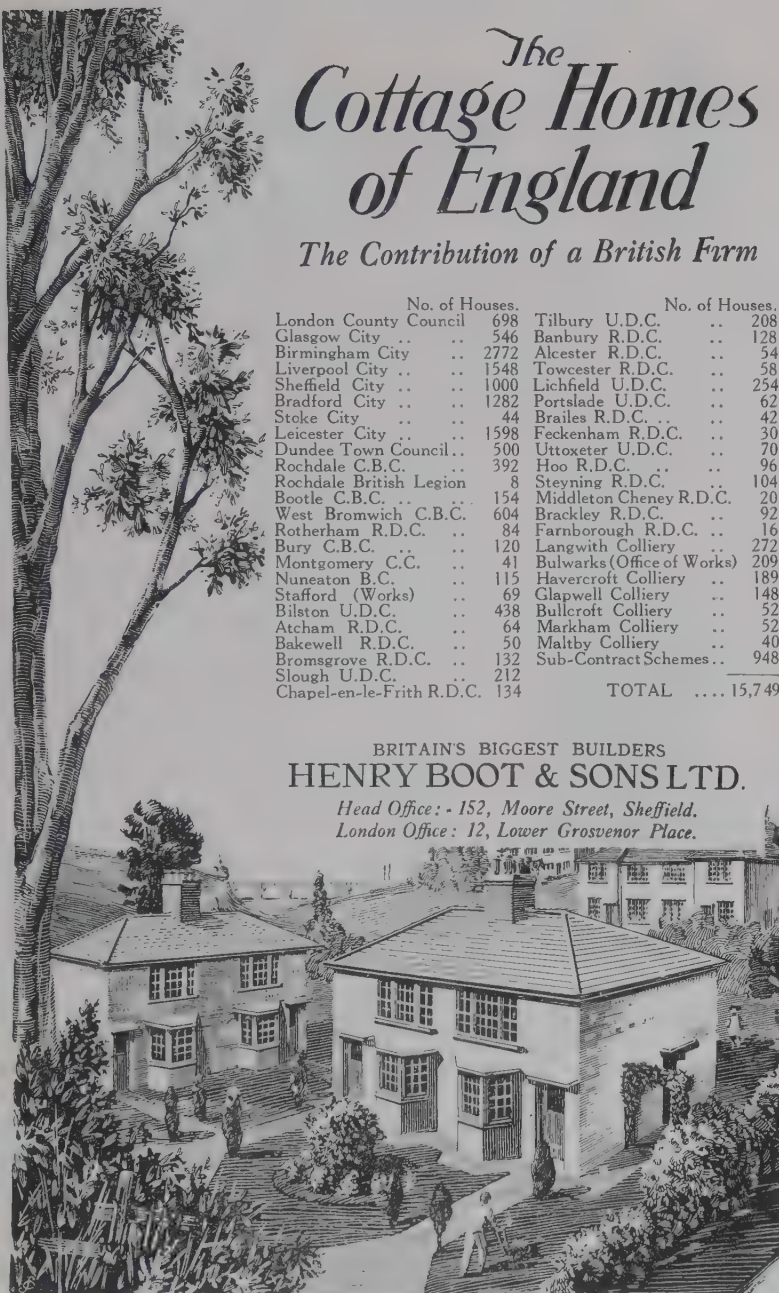
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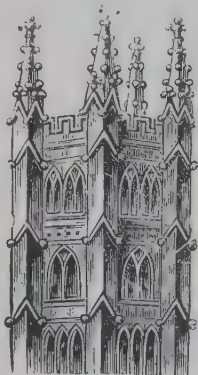
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ESTATES DEPARTMENT.

THE Corporation estates throughout the City and the properties thereon are under the control of an Estates Department, whose duties consist of :

- (a) The management of all municipal houses erected throughout the City, together with all other properties owned by the Corporation, but not immediately required for civic purposes ; and
- (b) Carrying into operation the provisions of Part II. of the Housing Act of 1925, or any amending Act dealing with slum clearance and relative schemes.

Under (a) the department has to deal with the housing of the working classes, though it does not actually erect houses. The Estates Committee has the trying responsibility of allocating the erected houses amongst the many thousands who make application for them, and thereafter such houses are managed by the Estates Department.

When the Armistice was signed in 1918 it was found that the housing shortage—which was beginning to make itself felt even before the war-time cessation of building operations—had become an acute problem, and 14,000 houses were required to make up the shortage in Birmingham.

First Municipal Houses.

In 1920 the first houses erected under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919 (Addison Scheme) were available for allocation. Since that date Birmingham has struggled to meet the urgent needs of its citizens, and the following figures show what has been achieved in dealing with the situation up to July 28th, 1928.

No. of houses handed over for management.				Pending at date of statement.	
			Let.	Sold.	
1919 Scheme	3,238*		3,300	44	—
	106†				
1923-24 Scheme ..	18,492		15,703‡	2,697	90
	21,836		19,005	2,741	90

* War camp hutments converted into approved dwellings for 106 families.

† Includes houses for police accommodation, etc.

‡ Includes 16 houses taken over from Perry Barr U.D.C.

These figures will give some idea of the extent of the Corporation's ownership of house property in the city, and explains why at a function held in Birmingham the Chairman of the Estates Committee responded to the toast, "The health of the Biggest Landlord of the City." In addition to the Assisted Scheme houses there are over 200 other weekly properties belonging to various departments which are managed by the Estates Department.



FOX HOLLIES ROAD. HALL GREEN.

Improvement Schemes.

There is also the Dwelling House Improvement Scheme associated with the municipal activities of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, consisting of property acquired under the powers of the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Improvement Act, 1875. This scheme, which involved the clearance of a large unhealthy area and the construction of a fine central thoroughfare (Corporation Street), covers an area of about 93 acres, of which about 43½ acres were purchased by the Corporation at a cost of £1,700,000, and many model dwellings were subsequently erected thereon. There are some 560 weekly dwellings in the area, which produce a gross annual income of £11,100, and from quarterly properties and ground rents the annual income is about £73,300. The necessary capital for this scheme was raised by Corporation stock, partly at three and a half per cent. and partly at three per cent. on a sixty years' basis.

The department is now engaged on a somewhat similar, though much smaller, scheme in New Summer Street, which has been represented as an unhealthy area by the Medical Officer of Health. It will be dealt with under item (b) of the work of the department as set out in the opening paragraph. The area concerned comprises about eleven and half acres, and about 500 houses are affected.

Housing Survey. Applications for Houses.

In 1926 the Estates Committee, acting under instruction from the City Council, carried out a special survey of the housing needs of the City, and an exhaustive report was presented to the Council on the matter. The position of the Register on December 1st, 1928, was as follows:—

Total number of Registered Applicants still waiting for accommodation	25,942
--	--------

Registered applicants from whom no information has been received during last 18 months	6,388
---	-------

32,330

Completed application forms for the tenancy of municipal houses are dealt with by a system which ensures that due regard is paid to income, necessity, child category, etc., and the exact position of the application on the register of unallocated applicants.

A system of "exchanges" has been instituted by the department, which has been made possible by the cordial co-operation of estate agents and property owners in the City. The following is a specimen "exchange" case:

Brown, the tenant of a whole house, privately owned, desirous of larger premises, makes application in January, 1927, for a municipal house, and, because of the "youth" of his application, and the fact that he is a tenant of a whole house, the department are unable to do anything for him.

Smith applied in 1925 and is due for allocation, but, because of smallness of income, cannot be given a municipal house. Brown's landlord is approached and agrees that if Brown is given a municipal house, to accept Smith as his tenant. The matter is arranged, and two applicants are suited and are allocated houses for which they can pay the rent.



BILLESLEY FARM ESTATE.

House Purchase through the Municipal Bank.

A House Purchase Scheme has been adopted by the Corporation. It is possible by this means to purchase on a ninety-nine years' lease a parlour-type Council house, with a minimum deposit of £25, or a non-parlour-type house, with a minimum deposit of £20, the balance of the purchase price being secured by means of a mortgage with the Birmingham Municipal Bank. Sitting tenants are enabled to purchase the house they occupy on payment of a deposit of one per cent. of the purchase price.

The weekly commitments to cover interest on loan, repayment of loan, rates, etc., are for the first year approximately 22s. 6d., for a parlour-type house, and 19s. for a non-parlour-type house. The period of repayment is spread over twenty years, and the payments are reduced *pro rata* until in the twentieth year the weekly payments are, approximately, for a parlour-type house 9s. 6d. and for a non-parlour type house 8s.

Rent Collection and Supervision.

The work of collecting the rents of the weekly properties managed by the department is carried out by thirty-three collectors, fifteen of whom are district collectors resident on the estate in their charge, the remaining nine being attached to Head Office. General supervision and maintenance of the amenities of the estate form part of their duties.

There are five collection districts, which work in close conjunction with the various administrative sections of the department.

A qualified supervisor of gardens is on the staff of the department, and information and advice is always at the disposal of the tenants. Largely owing to the generosity of the Birmingham Common Good Trust, competitions have been held during the last few years for the best municipal gardens and the best show of fruit; and the publication since 1925 of a municipal calendar containing useful hints on the care and maintenance of house property, and the cultivation and cropping of the gardens, has been of great value. The Common Good Trust also assisted to defray the cost of printing and publishing these calendars, which are presented free to every municipal tenant.

On the all-important question of repairs the Estates Department have taken the municipal motto "Forward," for their guide, and carry out all necessary repairs and redecorations departmentally. Repair depots have been established at various points, and are under the control of a Repairs Manager.

The Estates Department also have under their management and control some sixty agricultural tenancies, representing an area of some 1,700 acres.

Some idea of the extent of the estates managed by the department for the citizens of Birmingham may be gathered from the following table :

Approximate annual value of weekly rent collection	...	£617,760
Approximate annual value of all other quarterly rents and ground rents	... ..	£137,300
Approximate amount paid annually in rates and taxes	...	£290,000



DAD'S LANE FARM ESTATE, KING'S HEATH.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS.

SMALL HOLDINGS.

BIRMINGHAM has not been backward in making use of the powers conferred by Parliament for the acquisition of land for small holdings and allotments. The Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919, passed to enable county councils and county boroughs to provide for the large number of ex-service men who wished to settle on the land, as well as the Small Holdings and Allotments Acts of 1908 and 1926, have been operated.

Early in 1920, under the provisions of the first-named Act, the City Council purchased the Canwell Estate of about 3,600 acres, eleven miles from the City, in an endeavour to satisfy the needs of a class of tenant rather different from the usual rural small holder with previous experience of agricultural pursuits, inasmuch as most of the applicants were townsmen to whom the experiences and the results of the war had made an open-air life desirable.

The Canwell Estate.

A complete survey of the estate and of the needs of the prospective small holders was made, with due regard to the suitability of the soil to the requirements of varied classes of farming operations by different tenants and markets for the disposal of produce. Three thousand acres were found to be well suited for the small holdings, and 200 acres sold as unfit for development. The remainder consisted mainly of woods and ornamental park-land. The large woods have been retained by the City, and are producing timber which is used in the equipment and maintenance of the buildings; the smaller woods are let to the tenants for pig and poultry runs. The mansion and grounds were transferred to the Public Health Department to be used as a convalescent home for ex-service men.

A village school and a private chapel were included in the estate. The former was sold to the school managers, while the latter was handed over to the Ecclesiastical Authorities and a conventional district was formed. Thus, with the exception of the 200 acres re-sold and the grounds transferred to the Public Health Department, the large woods and the whole of the estate has been utilized for small holdings.

The estate was mapped into sections, according to the class of soil, for market gardening, mixed farming, poultry, and pig breeding, and dairying. The Northern (or Weeford) end consists of deep sandy loam suited to market gardening, and the demand in 1920 being greatest for this type of holding, a start was made on this section first. Fortunately it is intersected with good main roads, and it was possible to lay the holdings out with good frontages, thus avoiding the expense of making new roads. These holdings vary from five to fifteen acres. Most of this land being arable it was necessary to seed down two or three acres to pasture near each home-stead for small holders' horses, cows, or pigs.

Mixed Holdings for Stock Rearing.

The Shirral and Canwell sections were next developed. This area was more varied in character, consisting largely of light gravelly soil of shallow depth, while in other parts it was a medium clay. These sections were suitable for mixed holdings of from twenty to forty acres, the tenants devoting themselves to pig-breeding, stock-rearing, and, in addition, owing to their proximity to the City, some market gardening. The poorer land has been made into five to ten acre lots for pigs and poultry, and the permanent pasture into small dairy holdings.

The other sections, Brockhurst and Hints, comprising some of the best land in the district, were developed together. Difficulty and heavy expense were entailed in these areas, as most of the land lay in the middle of the estate away from the then existing roads. New roads had to be made and old farm roads re-made. The extra capital expenditure, in view of the rich nature of these sections of the estate, especially the Hints section, seemed justified. The soil is a deep clay-loam, parts of which had been laid down to pasture during the agricultural depression of the 'eighties. The larger holdings have all been formed in this area—as near fifty acres as possible without unnecessary division of the fields—which is the dairying portion of the estate. Under the Small Holdings Acts no holding must be less than one acre or more than fifty acres, or, if over fifty acres, must not be of an annual value for income tax purposes of more than £100 per annum.

Throughout the estate there are a number of cottage holdings—labourers' cottages, with one acre of land attached—for partly-disabled men with pensions. Also dotted among the larger farms are similar cottage holdings for men who earn their living by working for tenants of these farms, and devoting spare time to their one-acre holdings. Canwell has provided 137 holdings from its 3,000 acres.

Houses and Out-buildings.

Apart from the existing houses and buildings which were suitable for their new purposes, the equipment of the estate fell under two heads :

- (1) Existing houses and buildings to be adapted for small holding purposes ;
- (2) New houses and buildings.

The first presented a difficult problem. To adapt a big farmhouse with a large range of more or less antiquated buildings into up-to-date and suitable accommodation for modern small holdings was no small task. By careful planning, however, it was found possible in every case at Canwell to provide three, four, and in some cases as many as six self-contained sets of buildings for the holdings immediately adjoining, the farmhouses in many cases being made into two, and the labourers' cottages attached to the farm being utilized for the remainder. Great care was necessary in laying out the holdings immediately adjoining these existing homesteads in order that each tenant had easy access to his buildings from his land without having to interfere with his neighbours, that the land immediately adjoined the house and buildings, and that each range was self-contained and as far as possible private.

In the second case, the provision of new houses and buildings, it was decided to erect the same type of house on each holding. This contains living-room, parlour, scullery, three bedrooms, and bathroom. On some of the smaller holdings semi-detached houses were erected on the score of economy.

The thirty-five to fifty-acre holdings consist of a block of buildings surrounding a yard containing cow-shed for ten, mixing-house, stable for two with loft over, cart-shed, two pigsties, and two loose-boxes. Holdings from twenty to thirty-five acres contain cow-shed for eight, two-stalled stable with loft over, loose-box, cart-shed, and two pigsties ranged on two sides of the yard. Holdings from ten to twenty acres have cow-shed for four, loose-box, cart-shed, and pig box. Holdings from five to ten acres have two pigsties (or pig-box) and large shed with double doors. Five-acre holdings have a pig-box only. There are, of course, variations according to the requirements of the particular holding.

Problem of Sanitation and Water Supply.

Drainage and sanitation was a knotty problem in the Canwell scheme, the "water carriage" system being out of the question on the score of expense. Earth closets are provided in the new houses, and the slop water is disposed of by means of filters and irrigated over the land. The drainage from the farm buildings is collected in a tank in the yard, and from time to time emptied over the holding.

The water supply on the estate, which is an all-important question, is derived partly from springs and partly from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The Company's water is supplied in bulk by meter, and distributed by the Corporation and also through the Company's ordinary service mains direct to the tenants. Except at the northern end of the estate, at which the tenants pay for the water direct to the Company, the Corporation levy a rate on the tenants according to the rateable value of the holding and the number of taps, which varies from £2 to £5 per annum.

The management of the estate consists in the upkeep and repair of between 140 and 150 houses and farm buildings, including eight large farmhouses with long ranges of farm buildings, seven smaller farmhouses and buildings, fifty-eight new houses and buildings, and forty-eight existing houses and cottages with their buildings. There is also "surplus property," such as the home farm, estate yard and offices, workmen's cottages, and a public house. About twelve miles of new wire fences have been erected and seven miles of new roads made. For the maintenance of this property an estate staff consisting of bricklayers, carpenters, woodmen, and carters is kept, all repairs and maintenance work and new equipment being carried out by direct labour.

Canwell is the second largest estate of the kind in the country. An agricultural show is held annually by the tenants.

The rents vary considerably according to the class of land, ranging from 30s. to 40s. per acre for the land only. The rents of the houses and buildings range from £13 per annum in the case of an existing cottage to £25 per annum for the larger adapted houses and the new houses.

"A Very Notable Exception."

In closing this survey of Birmingham's activity in meeting the demand for small holdings, a report may be quoted of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which says; "A very notable exception to the general rule in regard to the unsuitability of a county borough to administer a genuine small holdings scheme is the City of Birmingham. . . . This Corporation had no pre-war holdings, but was faced with a heavy demand for land on the part of ex-service men. Up till 1st December, 1920, when the preferential lists of application for small holdings was closed, about 400 ex-service men had applied to the Corporation for nearly 4,800 acres of land. Fortunately the borough had as Chairman of the Small Holdings Committee an experienced agriculturist, who was prepared to devote a great deal of time and care to the task of settling these applicants."

ALLOTMENTS.

In Birmingham, prior to the Cultivation of Lands Orders made under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, the number of allotments controlled by the Corporation was about 4,000. The late war, however, gave a big flip to the movement, and in order to assist in maintaining the food supply local authorities were given wide powers to enter upon any unoccupied

land without consent, or, if occupied, with the consent of the occupier and landlord, and either cultivate it themselves or let it for cultivation. The Parks Committee, upon whom devolved the administration of the Orders, at once put the machinery in motion for the provision of war-time allotments. The demand was immediately enormous, no fewer than 13,274 plots being laid out as a war-time measure.

The powers and duties of the Council relative to allotments provided under the Allotments Acts were in January, 1922, transferred from the Parks Committee to the Agricultural and Small Holdings Committee, who were successful in retaining a large proportion of war time sites as permanent allotments, comparatively few of the enthusiasts who acquired a *flair* for allotment work during the war desiring to relinquish their holdings.

Allotment Land Owned by Birmingham.

The number of allotments now under the control of the Corporation is nearly 11,000, on 161 sites, mainly on the outskirts of the City, with a total area of about 1,120 acres. It is estimated that there are also 4,000 allotments let by private owners. The area of freehold allotment land owned by the City is about 430 acres, the remainder being held on annual tenancy or leased, and the largest freehold site, not only in Birmingham but in the whole country, is the Wyrley Birch Estate, comprising ninety-nine acres and accommodating nearly 1,000 tenants.

Administration of the Allotments Acts is now carried out by a special Allotments Committee and not the Agricultural and Small Holdings Committee, though both committees have at present the same chairman. As the 1922 Act provides that one-third of the committee shall be persons who are not members of the Council, but experienced in the management and cultivation of allotments and representative of the tenants, the interests of the latter are fully safeguarded.

The allotments are generally let at an annual rent of 10s. per 300 square yards. There are some plots of 400 and some of 600 square yards. The rents of the pre-war plots were payable quarterly or half-yearly, but a change to yearly collections has been effected without friction.

Healthy Rivalry and Fellowship among Plot-holders.

On the larger sites the tenants have generally formed themselves into Allotments Associations, which foster good fellowship amongst the members and promote their interests in a manner that could not be achieved by individual action. These associations organize the annual shows which do so much to encourage a healthy rivalry among plot-holders. The Allotments Committee have shown their confidence in the associations by giving them a large share in the control of the sites, the rents of which are in many cases collected by them, and their appreciation of this confidence in the associations is expressed by their readiness to execute by their own labour and at their own cost minor repairs to fences and roads, which otherwise would have to be carried out by the committee.

Owing to building development the Allotments Committee have from time to time to surrender sites rented or held on lease, with consequent dispossession of plot-holders. The policy of the committee has been, as far as possible, to acquire the freeholds of desirable land so that tenants may not run the risk of displacement and permanently to satisfy the insistent demand of new applicants. So much is security of tenure of plots appreciated that tenants are generally willing to pay a higher rent where this is attained. The committee have adopted a standard hut for new sites in an endeavour

to avoid the ramshackle erections which tend to become an eyesore on allotments, accompanied by a scheme of planting privet along roadside borders of the sites to improve their appearance.

Birmingham allotments had no small share in producing the £7,000,000 worth of food that was grown during 1927 on the allotments in this country, and the work of the City Council through its Allotments Committee is of a social and economic importance that citizens will fully appreciate.

MOTOR CAR PARKING PLACES.

The following are Authorized Parking Places at the positions defined by White Lines on the Roadways :—

	No. of Cars.
BARTHOLOMEW STREET (West Side of Carriageway).	18
*BARWICK STREET (North-West Side of Carriageway) ..	12
BORDESLEY STREET (North-East Side of Carriageway)...	27
CLIVELAND STREET (South-East Side of Carriageway). ..	40
*CORNWALL STREET (Centre of Street only).	12
CRESCENT (North and North-West Sides of Carriageway)...	50
HOLLAND STREET (North-East Side of Carriageway). ..	17
HOLLIDAY STREET (North-West Side of Carriageway). ..	28
JENNENS ROW (South-East Side of Carriageway).	22
FLEET STREET (North-West Side of Carriageway). ..	40
HANLEY STREET (South Side of Carriageway).	30
HELENA STREET (North-East Side of Carriageway). ..	6
*KING ALFRED'S PLACE (South-West Side of Carriageway)	18
*KING EDWARD'S PLACE (North-East Side of Carriageway).	14
LOUISA STREET (South-West Side of Carriageway). ..	10
NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (North Side of Carriageway).	22
*NEW CORPORATION STREET (East Side of Carriageway)	130
*NEWHALL STREET (Centre of Carriageway).	70
PARK STREET (East Side of Carriageway).	21
*PINFOLD STREET (South-West Side of Carriageway). ..	23
*RATCLIFF PLACE.	6
SCOTLAND STREET (North-West Side of Carriageway). ..	12
*SEVERN STREET (North Side of Carriageway).	50
*SEYMOUR STREET (East Side of Carriageway).	10
ST. PAUL'S SQUARE (South-West and North-East Side of Carriageway).	38
*WHITTALL STREET (North-East Side of Carriageway). ..	38

*Authorized Attendants in uniform on duty at the places starred.

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION VIII.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

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THE POLICE FORCE.

THE existing system of police administration is of comparatively modern origin, and is a development of the principle upon which the force was established by Sir Robert Peel. Before the days of the first "Bobby" the responsibility for maintenance of the peace was imposed upon each hundred or tithing, and members of those divisions were held jointly liable for infractions of the law which took place within their limits.

In the year 1789 a Mr. Thomas Lee, Steward of the Manor of Birmingham, prepared a list of the duties of "the respective officers appointed by the Court Leet in the Manor," and among the entries we find :

"THE OFFICE OF CONSTABLE.

The Jury find and present that these Officers are annually elected by the Jury ; and their Duty is to suppress all Riots and Affrays within the Manor, to arrest all Felons, Night Walkers, and suspicious Persons, which they may do of their own Authority : and they may charge and command any Person, to assist them in the Execution of their Office, if needs require, and they are to be attendant upon the Justices of the Peace, and to execute their Warrants : and they have a power, by virtue of their Office, of Billetting the Officers and Soldiers, which they are to do fairly and impartially."

"THE OFFICE OF HEADBOROUGH.

The Jury find and present, that this Officer is annually elected by the Jury, and is a Secondary Constable, and in the Absence or on the Death of the Constable, it is his Business to do and execute the Duties of the Constable, and when required, he is personally to assist the Constable in preserving the Public Peace."

A Few Watchmen for Night Duty.

Before the grant of the Charter of Incorporation in 1838 the police of the town was administered by the Commissioners of the Street Act and by the County Justices of the other parishes afterwards included in the borough. There was no regular police force, only a few watchmen appointed for night duty, and the ordinary arrest of criminals was left to the parish constables. A sum of money for the establishment of a police force was included in the first estimates of the Council, but no steps were taken to appoint constables.

The political agitation which culminated in the Chartist meetings of 1839 caused an application to be made for a detachment of London police to assist in Birmingham. Lack of money prevented steps being taken immediately by the Council to establish a force, and they did not deem it prudent to proceed with the matter until they were actually in possession of sufficient funds.

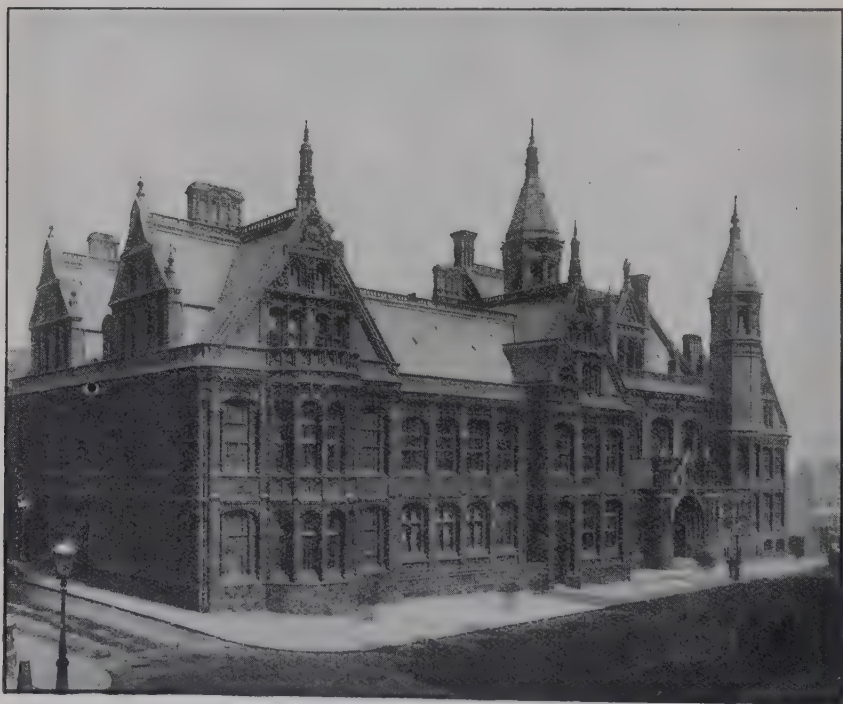
Birmingham Police Bill in Parliament.

On July 15th, 1839, the Bull Ring Riots occurred, and on the two following days discussions took place in both Houses of Parliament. In the Lords the debate was particularly heated, and the Duke of Wellington repeatedly declared that "he had been in many towns taken by storm, but never had such outrages occurred in them as had been committed in

Birmingham.” It would appear desirable to add however, that there is no evidence that the Duke of Wellington visited Birmingham during the time of the riots. Newspaper files have been searched in vain for reference to any such visit and it would seem possible that the Duke’s emphatic declaration was more figurative than literally correct. His Grace further suggested that the riots were the direct consequence of granting a charter of incorporation. The Government, however, were sympathetic towards the Birmingham Magistrates and Council, and at the request of the Mayor introduced the Birmingham Police Bill, which provided that a sum of £10,000 should be advanced, the money to be repaid out of a special rate within ten years.

A number of people in Birmingham who objected to representative local government communicated with Sir Robert Peel, the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, urging that in the Bill the control of the police should be vested in a commissioner appointed by the Home Secretary, so depriving the Council of some of its most important work. The proposal was accepted, and a Police Commissioner was appointed, to whom the Government advanced the sum of £10,000 for the establishment of a police force, which sum was to be repaid, together with interest, by the Town Council. In 1842 the Charters Confirmation Act legalized Birmingham’s Charter of Incorporation, and the control of the police was restored to the Council.

A Government official in 1849 reported that “there are eight distinct and separate governing powers within the Parliamentary borough of Birmingham, and consequently eight separate sets of officers have to be



THE VICTORIA COURTS.

found to do the work which may be done by one efficient staff." The Improvement Act of 1851 converted these eight bodies into one, and (as Mr. J. Thackray Bunce said in his official "History of the Corporation of Birmingham") "after thirteen years of almost incessant conflict the triumph of the representative principle was finally and firmly achieved."

In Our Own Times.

The authorized strength of the regular police force in the City is 1,587. When the present Chief Constable came to Birmingham in 1899 the force comprised 700 members. There were only fourteen police stations, while to-day there are over forty. A great change has also taken place in educational and ambulance instruction and in the social aspects of the force.

Recruits are put through a course of instruction in law, practical police duties, etc., by police instructors, and they attend special Council school continuation classes for supplementary instruction in literary subjects. Ambulance work, drill, fire drill, swimming and gymnastics are also included in the curriculum. Out of an actual strength of 1,488, on 31 December, 1927, no fewer than 1,438 members of the force were qualified to render "first aid," and of this number 1,369 men held the second certificate and 1,281 the third certificate and medallion of the St. John Ambulance Association; the remaining 50 being recruits under instruction.

The Birmingham Children's Court.

In 1905 Birmingham enjoyed the distinction of having inaugurated the first Children's Court, for prior to that date all children who had offended the law were dealt with in the same courts as hardened criminals. The Home Secretary recently opened in Birmingham the first building in the country to be designed and built specifically for use as a Children's Court. The Court was erected by the munificence of Mr. and Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, and in association and environment the building is quite distinct from the ordinary courts. The experiment will, no doubt, occasion as much interest among magistrates and social workers in this country and abroad as did the initiation of the first Children's Court twenty-three years ago.

The first women police in the City, two in number, commenced duty in June, 1917. There are now six members of this section, and, while it is their duty to help all females in trouble, their work particularly lies among girls who can be removed from evil influences. A Hostel for Women and Girls in Dale End, believed to be the first institution of the kind in the country, was opened in June, 1918, and was replaced on 17th July, 1928, by a new Hostel adjoining the Juvenile Court.

The Special Constabulary Reserve was formed in October, 1919, after the disbandment of the Special Constabulary of the war period, and is now a permanent force under the Special Constables Act of 1923. The strength of the force at present exceeds 900, but during the industrial upheaval of 1926 this number was temporarily increased to over 4,000.

Traffic Control. Police Aid to Charities.

In consequence of the increasing number of fatal street accidents, the help of the Public Works Department has been enlisted to provide means of safety, and many street refuges have been erected to reduce the hazards of navigating dangerous crossings. Steps have also been taken to bring trams to the footpath at suitable places to avoid traffic danger.

An activity of the force which deserves more credit than it receives is the work of the Police Aided Association, founded in 1893 to supply boots and warm garments to the poorest children of the City. Since its inception

over 88,000 children have been benefited, and nearly £47,000 has been disbursed. The proceeds of the annual police sports, which have amounted to over £13,000 during the past twenty-seven years, are also distributed among the charities of the City.

Such is the story of the Birmingham Police Force since the days of the Constable and Headborough, and now it well maintains its reputation for being one of the finest police forces in the world. The old bogey of bygone years—the threat to report errant children to the “bobby”—has lost its significance, for nowadays children look upon the modern policeman as the guardian angel of road-crossings, and the adult citizen is less unfriendly with increasing knowledge of the policeman’s responsibilities and worth.

FIRE PROTECTION.

IN sixteen stations of the Fire Brigade the City’s fire-fighters carry on an unrelaxing vigil. At the sound of the alarm bell a station is instinctively in action, and in thirty seconds the engine, with crew and equipment complete, is ready for service and away. If necessary, the alarm is passed on to the other fifteen stations, who stand by for instructions.

In the leisurely days of the past, the duties of the Fire Brigade Sub-Committee were performed by the churchwardens, and in 1695 that body appointed a William Burn to keep the fire engine in order and “to play it four times every year,” for which service he received twenty shillings per annum. After the engine had been thus played twenty times, that is to say in the year 1701, a new one was secured at a cost of £12.

Mr. Peck (the Beadle) versus Mr. Breeze.

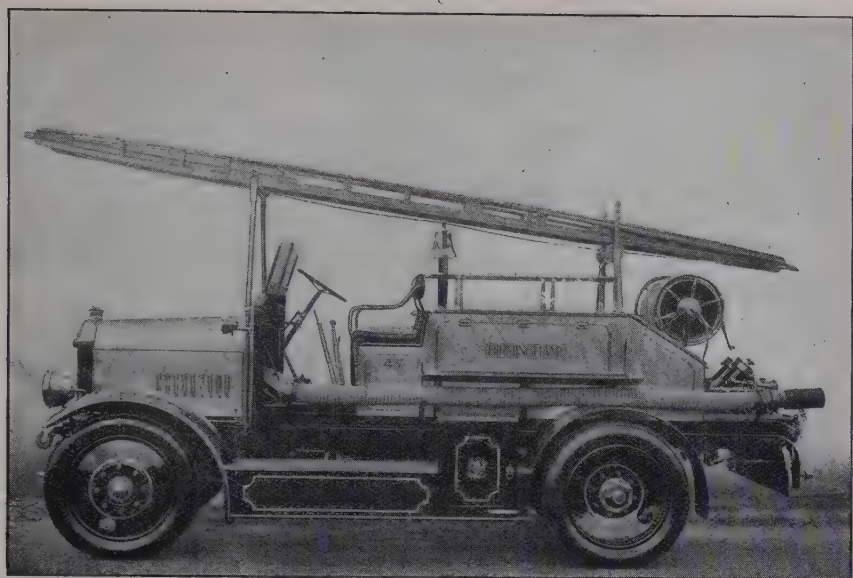
The Fire Brigade Authority again enters in the lists in the year 1777, when an action at law was entered against Mr. Peck, the Beadle, by Mr. Breeze, who, it seems, sustained a damping when the engine was being played. The churchwardens appear to have rallied round their chief officer and instructed that the action be defended at the town’s expense; but there is no evidence to show whether the Beadle or Mr. Breeze was successful, and the record of a trial which might have rivalled in interest the classic “*Bardell v. Pickwick*” is lost to posterity.

In the years 1788-89 the churchwardens leased a workshop in Temple Street and had it fitted up as an engine house, the advice of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, of the famous Soho Foundry, being sought upon the type of engine most suited to the needs of the place. Whether their choice was a success remains unknown, for the history of the churchwardens’ venture becomes somewhat obscure after that date.

Impressive Insurance Company Fire Fighters.

Four years afterwards, in 1792, the Royal Exchange Assurance Company presented to the authorities a fire engine, which was housed in Congreve Street. The Birmingham Fire Office followed the example with a fire engine house in Union Street, and the Norwich Union Insurance Company with a fire engine house in Congreve Street.

The museum at the Central Fire Station in the Upper Priory contains replicas of certain of the uniforms of these early firemen, which suggest an excellent idea of the impressive event a local fire must have been. The uniform of the Norwich Union Company, for example, is described as “green and red, with a kind of red epaulette, silver buttons, low-crowned hat, and jack boots.” Plush breeches and white stockings also formed part of this distinctive outfit. In 1863 the Royal Insurance Company



MOTOR TURBINE PUMP.

engaged the services of some thirty members of the Birmingham Rifle Volunteers to form their brigade.

Fire plates, many of which may still be seen upon the older houses in the City, denoted to the attending firemen with which company the building was insured.

Progress after Private Brigades' Disbandment.

In 1873, however, the insurance companies decided to disband their private brigades and to present to the town their entire plant, which was then valued at £1,000. The town thus became possessed of a "force" equipped with five engines, built between 1840 and 1864, sixteen lengths of hose, thirteen sets of uniform, together with certain small sundries, and accommodated its acquisition in Lower Cannon Street.

During the last half century the fire service has closely followed the expansion of the City, as the following comparative table illustrates :

	In 1880.	In 1928.
Acreage of City	8,420	46,687
Population	394,000	976,500
Fire Engines	7	46
Fire Calls	120	1,494
Officers and Men (Authorized strength 240) 1928..	17	219

The change in the status of the fireman is no less marked. When Mr. William Burn had played the fire engine the requisite number of times, his professional liabilities were at an end. The modern fireman needs to add to that accomplishment more than an elementary knowledge of general engineering and building construction, together with the rudiments of hydraulics, chemistry, and electricity. His physical condition must, of course, be beyond question, and he must be prepared to submit himself to a strict discipline. He is responsible for public safety in places of entertainment, and constant inspections are made to secure this.

Equipment and Administration.

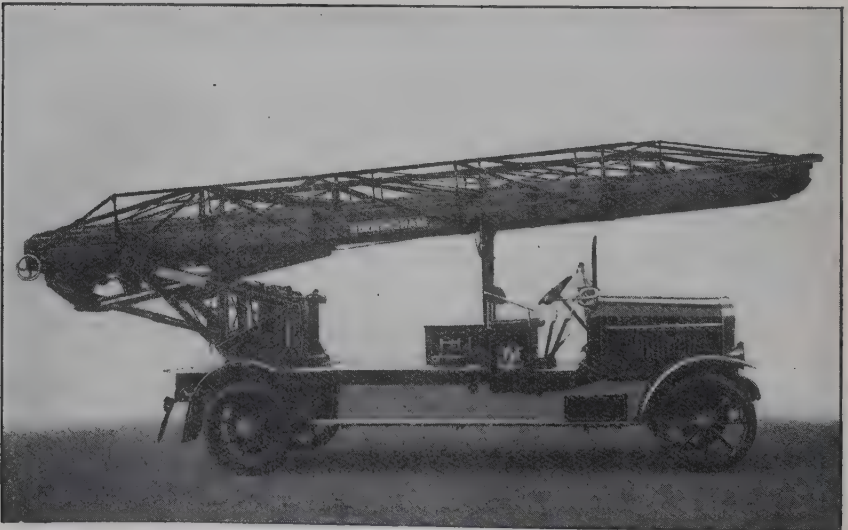
Before the motor engine superseded the horse engine the City fire stations had forty-two horses in their stables. At the present time the brigade has 52 motors in its service, which include pumps capable of discharging 600 gallons of water a minute, escapes which in forty seconds can be extended to eighty-five feet and made to operate at any angle, tenders to convey escapes and ladders, and machines of every type known to the modern fire fighter.

The Brigade Rescue Detachment is specially trained for work in poisonous fumes and gases, and the machine detailed for the work is equipped with oxygen breathing apparatus, a blower for displacing poisonous fumes from basements, together with electrical searchlights; Its equipment also includes apparatus for resuscitating the victims of poisoning by fumes and gases.

For the purposes of administration, the City is divided into six areas, each of which has its own station and sub-stations. Each of the sub-stations is connected by private telephone line to its district station, which, in turn, is similarly connected with headquarters.

The street fire alarms are allocated throughout the City according to the fire risks of each particular district. If a call is made from a street alarm a contingent from the nearest station attends, and detailed information is communicated to the district station and thence to headquarters; if necessary, further contingents are despatched forthwith. Information as to fire risks and water supplies is communicated to the operating brigade from headquarters, and when a station's personnel and engines are depleted by attendance at a fire, contingents from other districts are sent to replace them.

From the 1695 engine that William Burn was appointed to play "four times every year" to the £2,000 or £3,000 engines ready for instant action is the story of the progress of Birmingham Fire Brigade.



TURNTABLE FIRE ESCAPE AND WATER TOWER.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION IX.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

THE SALVAGE SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION

SALVAGE DEPARTMENT

JAS. JACKSON, O.B.E.
General Manager.

Salvage Department,
161, Corporation Street,
Birmingham.

Enquiries are invited in connection with the following by-products :

1. CONCENTRATED MANURES.

	Nitrogen	Soluble, Phosphoric Anhydride.	Insoluble, Phosphoric Anhydride.
(a) Fish Manure	8.2%	0.5%	7.8%
(b) Meat Manure	8.0%	0.6%	10.5%
(c) Bone Manure	0.75%	—	27.5%
(d) Slaughterhouse Manure	5.0%	0.5%	2.3%

2. VEGETABLE MANURE.

1.4%	0.4%	0.8% (0.5% Potash) (K ₂ O)
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This fertiliser contains over 75% Organic Matter, the humus forming element which is the indispensable requirement of the soil.

3. FINE DUST. Suitable for use upon heavy land and reclaiming of waste land; contains 1% Ammonia and 1% Phosphate. 3/- per ton F.O.R. Birmingham.

4. MEALS FOR PIG OR POULTRY FOOD.

	Albuminoids, (Protein)	Oil.	Soluble, Phosphoric Anhydride	Insoluble Phosphoric Anhydride.	Salt.
(a) Fish Meal	51.0%	11.0%	0.5%	7.8%	1.8%
(b) Meat & Bone Meal	51.0%	12.0%	0.5%	8.7%	2.0%

5. FATS. For Soap and Candle-making.

6. HYDRAULICALLY COMPRESSED SCRAP METALS.

- (a) De-tinned Scrap.
- (b) Galvanized Scrap.
- (c) Enamelled Scrap.

7. CRUSHED, SCREENED AND GRADED CLINKERS.
For Concrete and Media for Bacteria Beds.

8. MILL MADE MORTAR.

9. BUNDLED WASTE PAPER.

Particulars of prices and any required information can be obtained upon application.

SALVAGE.

THE Salvage Department is responsible for the removal and disposal of house refuse, the collection and disposal of certain trade refuse, the cleansing of markets and slaughterhouses, and the emptying of cesspools.

In 1851 the Corporation obtained increased sanitary powers, and one of its new duties was to arrange for the collection of night-soil and house refuse. At that time Birmingham was practically a " midden " town, and the refuse was disposed of partly to local farmers for manure, the remainder being carried away to tips. The work was carried out by contractors, who were paid a small sum as subsidy, their profit being made out of the sale of manure. This method proved unsatisfactory, and in 1853 the Town Council decided to undertake the work, which was entrusted to the Public Works Committee.

Gradual Abolition of Middens.

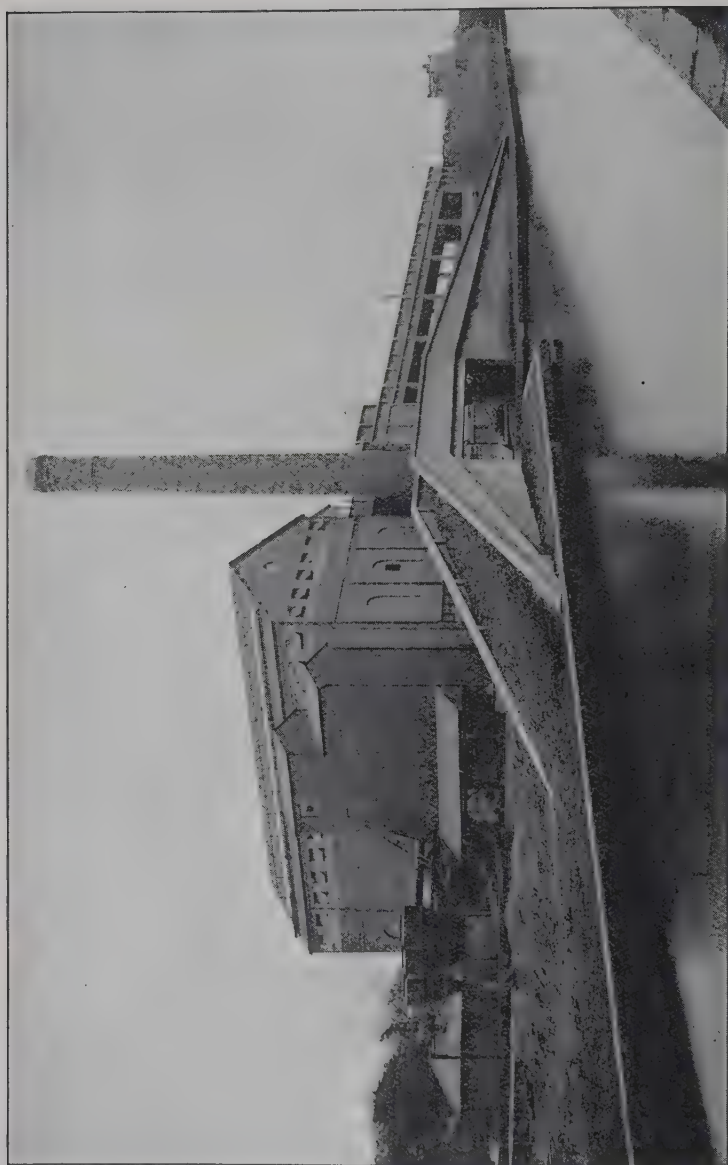
Twenty years later it was resolved to take measures to prevent the fouling of town sewers, and with this end in view the Council commenced the adoption of the " interception " system—defined in the report to the Council at that time as the " gradual abolition of middens, and the institution of a new privy system based upon the principle of exclusion from the sewers and the weekly collection of all excrementitious matter, solid and liquid." Control of the department then passed to the Sewage Committee, and three years after, on the eve of the formation of the Drainage Board, the collection of refuse was transferred to the Health Committee. When the pan system was put into operation there were nearly 20,000 middens or ashpits in the town.

When the Health Committee took over the management of the Interception Department the method of treatment was to form the ashes into a sort of pound, into which the contents of the pans were emptied and mixed by hand labour, the dry refuse being screened. The first improvement effected by the Health Committee was to use machinery to screen the ashes, and the next was to substitute mechanical means for mixing, an expenditure of £5,500 being incurred for this purpose. Then the sum of £4,000 was expended upon machinery for drying the pan contents by heat derived from the combustion of dry refuse, one of the first steps towards the scientific treatment of the town's refuse.

Rapid Conversion to Water-carriage System.

The work of installing the pan system was rapidly carried out, and in 1880 (seven years after the work was commenced) over 30,000 of these receptacles had been installed, and by 1885 over 40,000. Concurrently with this work the water-carriage system had been introduced, and in 1885 it was estimated that 10,000 water closets were in use throughout the City. The conversion of pans to the water-carriage system then proceeded rapidly, and by 1911 only 3,440 pans remained in the City. About 400 pans are still in use in rural areas not served by sewers.

In 1911 the department was re-named the Refuse Disposal Department and transferred from the Health Committee to the new Lighting, Stables, and Refuse Disposal Committee. During the same year five districts were



REFUSE UTILIZATION WORKS, BROOKVALE ROAD, WINTON.

annexed to the City, the area being increased from 13,477 to 43,601 acres, with an increase in population from 565,000 to 895,000.

Refuse Collection under the "Continuous" System.

The City Council after the war re-designated the department. It became the Salvage Department, and its first task was the re-organization of the method of refuse collection under a scheme which had been prepared in 1914 known as the "continuous" system.

The "continuous" system is so organized and elastic in its operation that the frequency of collection can be accelerated or otherwise at the will of the management, and an area calculated to provide sufficient work for one week in summer is allotted to each collecting unit.

Within the boundaries of this area or "round" the route of the collecting vehicle is laid down in a continuous line from start to finish. Every house to be visited has its definite place in the working list, and if the men are unable to obtain access for the purpose of removing the refuse a card is left informing the tenant that the men have called and will be round again in one week's time.

The driver may not deviate from the route laid down, and at the end of each day reports the last address at which he has called to a clerk, who plots out on a progress chart a length of line corresponding to the number of houses visited. With the aid of this chart, which also shows the average weight of refuse per load, the district inspector is able to see exactly where the work is in arrears, and to allocate help by spare vehicles when seasonal and other increases renders that necessary.

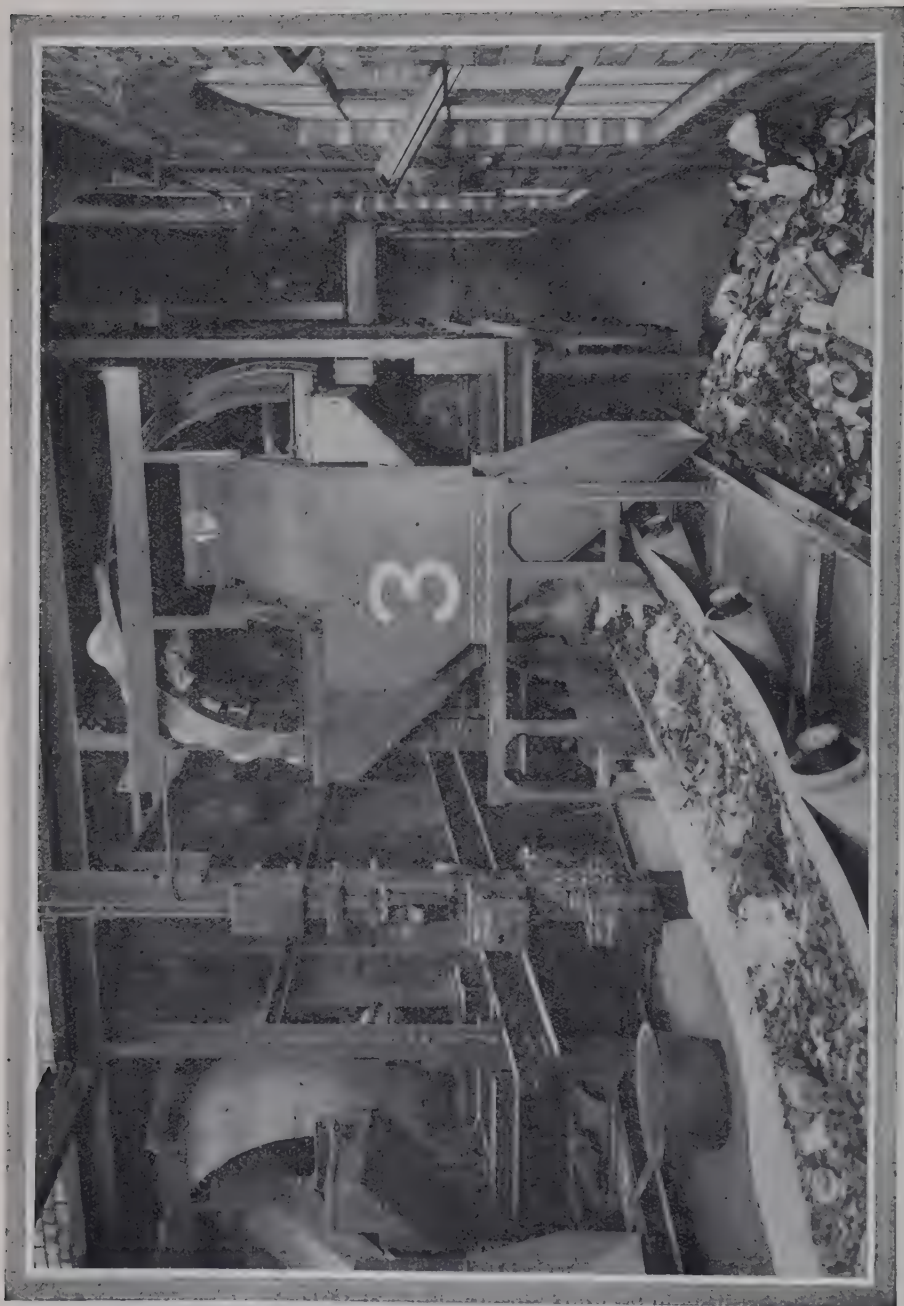
Electric Vehicles Supersede Horse Haulage.

Until the year 1918 the transport of the department was carried out entirely by horses. In that year, however, the working hours of the Department were reduced from 54 to 47 hours per week, and the speeding up of the Department's transport organization, therefore, became an absolute necessity if collection costs were to be prevented from rising. The "continuous" system could not be economically worked entirely by horse haulage, as the outer areas in the districts were too far away from the depôts for the horses to make more than two full-loaded journeys per day, and the first electric vehicle was then purchased. Now eighty-six electric vehicles are in commission, the capacity varying from five to thirteen cubic yards. At each of the works where electric vehicles are employed steam generating sets have been installed to supply electric current for the charging of the batteries, lighting works, and running the works plant.

The Salvage Department is also responsible for the regular emptying of cesspools in the City. This is carried out by means of five thirty-five horse-power petrol motor wagons with 800-gallon tanks.

Under various powers obtained by the City Council the majority of the ashpits in Birmingham have been converted to dustbin sheds, and ninety-nine per cent. of the properties of the City are now under the standardized bin system of the department, several thousand pounds having been spent by the Corporation in the provision of dustbins at properties where there are properly-constructed ashplaces not requiring conversion.

A successful voluntary dustbin hire and renewal service is operated by the Department, the number of such bins now amounting to 36,000. There are two sizes of ashbins in operation, namely, 18 ins. by 24 ins. and 16 ins. by 20 ins., holding respectively $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet.



MAGNETIC SEPARATOR AND PICKING BELT, BROOKVALE ROAD REFUSE UTILIZATION WORKS.

The small bin has been introduced, with the object of further reducing the output of refuse.

The annual payments for hiring are as follows :—

			1st year.	2nd to 5th years inclusive.	Following years.
Large Bin	..	..	1/6	1/11	1/6
Small Bin	..	..	1/6	1/6	1/6

The Hirer agrees that all dustbins owned by him shall come into the Scheme, and the Corporation on their part undertake to maintain the bins in good order while the Agreement is in force.

The total tonnage of refuse dealt with by the department during the year ended March 31st, 1928, was 256,246 tons—a yield (exclusive of cesspool contents and market refuse) of 237 tons per 1,000 persons per annum. This is the lowest tonnage per 1,000 persons in any of the twelve largest cities and towns in England.

Disposal Depôts and Plants.

In 1919 the disposal side of the department was carried on from fourteen depôts, at nine of which there were destructors. This number was reduced to thirteen on the introduction of electric vehicles and the re-organization of collection in the King's Norton and Lifford areas. Later on the Salvage Committee decided upon the abolition of tipping of unscreened house refuse and the reduction of administrative costs by enlarging the various districts, and so reducing the number of depôts. To accomplish this and other methods of modernizing its disposal plants schemes were prepared and approved by the City Council for additions at an estimated cost of £450,000.

In 1924 a new salvage utilization plant at Brookvale Road, Witton, was opened. The works serve an area of 6,830 acres, containing 32,000 houses, with a population of 150,000 persons, and its opening enabled the department to abolish three tips, to close two depôts, and discontinue the tipping of 16,000 tons per annum of unscreened refuse.

The opening of the new Tyseley plant, the third and latest of the development schemes to be completed during the past four years, has resulted in the closing of three depôts and seven tips, and the abolition of the tipping of all unscreened house refuse inside the City areas, with the exception of about 3,000 tons per annum at one small tip in the western part of the City, where it is carried out in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health. Over 45,000 houses have been erected in the area to be served by the new works, and the district is rapidly developing.

The fourth and latest scheme carried out by the Department is the extension and modernizing of the plant at Lifford at a cost of £22,000. This new scheme is now in working order and is giving every satisfaction, and is capable of catering for an additional 12,000 houses, which have been erected at the rate of 1,000 per year in this district.

Further Plants.

The Salvage Department have now received the consent of the Council to proceed with their fifth scheme, namely, the entire re-building of the Rotton Park Street Depôt, at an estimated cost of £125,000. This plant will have to treat, as a commencement, 42,000 tons per annum, and the specification provides for most modern appliances in destructor and salvage practice.

Waste Utilization.

A modern organic waste utilization plant, the largest municipal plant of its kind in the country, is in operation at the Montague Street Works, engaged on the conversion of the City's animal, fish and vegetable waste into feeding meals and fertilizers.

About 9,000 tons of this waste are dealt with annually, from which about 1,000 tons of feeding meals and fertilizers, and about ninety tons of fat are produced. The annual turnover of the plant is about £10,000, and half the product is exported. The whole of its operations is under the scientific control of the laboratory, where constant study is given to the output of first-quality products by the most efficient methods.

Vegetable Plant.

The new plant for the scientific treatment of vegetable waste refuse has fully justified itself. Hitherto, owing to its excessive water content it has been found extremely difficult and expensive to treat such vegetable waste in the incinerators. Large quantities of it were previously tipped in the country, but in every case strong complaints were received of the nuisance created. The new process not only therefore does away with all nuisance, but has affected a considerable saving, in that the product finds a ready market as a fertiliser.

The plant is creating great interest not only in this country but abroad, and further developments in this direction are anticipated.

The technical staff includes mechanical, electrical, and contructional engineers and chemists, the latter being provided with a fully-equipped modern laboratory for carrying out research work with the object of exploiting the various by-products of the City refuse.

Obtaining Accurate Data.

The importance of the use of scientific instruments in the burning of refuse has been realized, and there have been installed at several of the works continuous CO₂ and temperature recorders, steam pressure recorders, and boiler feed water recorders.

The CO₂ recorder provides excellent means of supervision of the fires. By maintaining a high percentage of CO₂ in the flue gases a greater quantity of refuse is burned, and by reason of the more complete combustion of the refuse more steam is available. By means of the temperature recorder the temperatures of the flue gases are automatically graphed, and from the graph can be seen the state of the fires as existing at any time of the day or night. The boiler feed recorder states the amount of water evaporated by the boilers, and, with this information available, it is possible to obtain accurate data as to the amount of water which can be evaporated per unit of refuse burned.

Clinker. Mortar. Slabs.

The flues are kept clear of dust by means of a series of steam blowers fixed in the combustion chamber boiler passes and flues. The residum from the burning of refuse meets a ready sale, and is chiefly used for the base in the construction of roads. A large quantity of clinker is also crushed and graded into various sizes and used for concrete houses, concreting, road making, media for bacteria beds, and garden paths.

Mortar mills are installed at five of the works, and mortar is made from the fine-crushed clinker mixed with lime. Slabs of assorted size are

made from crushed clinker and cement, and find a ready sale for garden paths, courtyards, etc. In some cases the slabs are reinforced to meet special requirements.

System in Administration.

A costing system was inaugurated in 1918, and the expenses of costing is .63 pence per ton of refuse dealt with. Every process and vehicle in the department is costed, and each week, month, or quarter, according to requirements, costing returns of every phase of the work are prepared for the superintendent, and are developed in such a form that they can be split into further sections if required. New methods and types of vehicles are constantly being tried in the service, and close costing of these innovations is of great value in proving which is the most economical, and in making decisions with regard to future development.

The administrative work of the department is carried on from the central offices in Corporation Street, various sections being responsible for sales, organization, costing, and accounting.

The accountancy staff consists of the chief accountant and assistants who keep the books of the department and pay the weekly wages of the 860 workmen employed.

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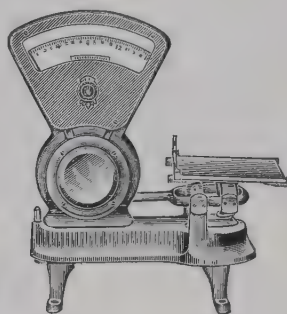
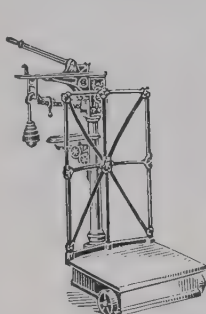
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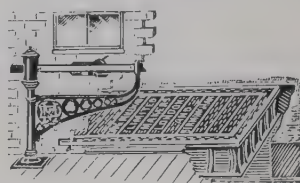
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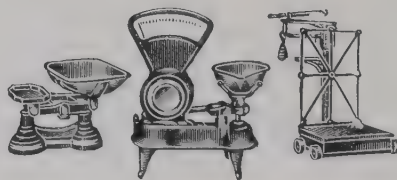
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AUTOMATIC
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CHAS. W. BRECKNELL Ltd.

HEAD OFFICE

20-22 LOMBARD STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.

Works :

20-22 LOMBARD ST.
71A PERSHORE ST.
246 BRADFORD ST.

Branches :

82 JAMAICA ROW
WEST ORCHARD,
COVENTRY.
DOCK ST., LONDON.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION X.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

GEO. SALTER & CO. Ltd.

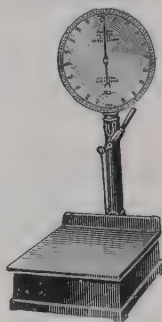


TRADE
CIRCULAR
BALANCE.
No. 73T.

With Iron Arm and Oblong
Scale. White Double Dials
14-in. diam. & Glass Cover.

WEST BROMWICH

Manufacturers of Spring
Balances and Weighing
Machines, made
specially to meet the
requirements of the
Board of Trade
Regulations for Trade
Purposes.

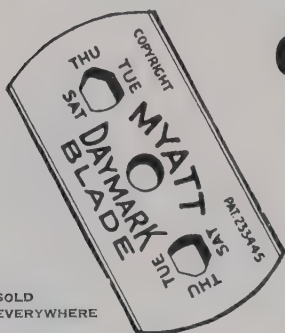


TRADE COUNTER MACHINE.
No. 110T.



TRADE CIRCULAR BALANCE
No. 77T.
With Arm and Oblong Scale.

Blades made by Myatt of Birmingham



SOLD
EVERYWHERE

Every blade is marked
with the days of the
week so that you can
give each edge regular
periods of use and rest.
The rested edge recovers
its keenness and temper.
The Myatt Daymark
Blade therefore keeps in
tip-top condition longer
than any other Blade.



Are "Daymarked" so you can keep turningham.

This means such a saving,

Such comfort in shaving

That compliments pour in concerningham.

MYATT

PATENT
DAYMARK

Blades

For Gillette Type Razors Only.

Sole Manufacturers ;

W. J. MYATT & Co., Ltd.

Contractors to H. M. Government,
Argent Works, Birmingham.

13 FOR
FIVE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT.

THE Weights and Measures Department, as is fitting, comes under the control of the Markets and Fairs Committee. When the Lord of the Manor possessed the market rights, the court leet exercised jurisdiction over the weights and measures used in the fairs or markets or by the shopkeepers within the manor. There is still in the department a bronze bushel measure which bears the inscription: "1674. Sir Samuell Marrow, Lord of the Mannor of Birmingham. C. II. R."

Originally located in the old Public Buildings in Moor Street, the department was moved to the Smithfield Market Building, St. Martin's Lane. The present offices in Corporation Street, opened in 1915, were built to afford better facilities for carrying on its work, and the building has since been enlarged to make provision for testing and stamping glass measures.

Largest Vehicles Weighed at One Operation.

Attached to the office there is a twenty-five-ton twin weighbridge consisting of two machines, each with a platform 16 feet by 8 feet, linked up to one steelyard, and in such manner that they may be used separately or in combination. A space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet between the two platforms, making the total stretch $33\frac{1}{2}$ feet, allows the largest motor vehicles now on the road to be weighed at one operation, and the axle weights of commercial motor vehicles can be readily ascertained.

The type of machine in use, known as the compound lever weighing machine, was invented about the year 1741 by John Wyatt, one of Birmingham's worthies, who worked for a large part of his life at the Boulton Foundry, Soho. The first specimen of the kind was laid down in Snow Hill in connection with the old Birmingham Workhouse, and a model of this machine is in the collection which is to be seen in the department.

A platform machine, with special fitments, has been provided in order to deal with motor cycles.

Prior to the introduction of Wyatt's machine, vehicles and their loads were weighed by means of a large steelyard fitted into the upper room of a building. Traces of these machines are still about in different parts of the country, and the remains of an old cart weighing machine can be seen to-day at Woodbridge, in Suffolk.

Nearly Forty Thousand Weighing Instruments Verified.

The work of the department may be classified under two heads; out-door inspection and in-door verification.

Under the last-named during the year ended March 31st, 1928, 57,343 weights, 596,077 measures, and 38,819 weighing instruments were verified and stamped, including 217 appliances of metric denomination. Since 1914 the metric carat (200 milligrams), with its multiples and sub-multiples, has replaced the old carat weight, which was not of a Board of Trade denomination. The balance used for the verification of diamond weights

is of one gram capacity and sensitive to .005 milligram. The main portion of the measures dealt with were half-pint tumblers for use in public houses, and the stamp of verification is imposed by a sand-blast machine electrically driven.

The department is authorized by the Board of Trade to undertake the adjustment of weights and measures, and the number corrected during 1927-28 was 28,247. Weighing instruments may not be adjusted by the inspectors. Eleven thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine loads passed over the weighbridge, the fees amounting to £316 4s. 9d. The total revenue of the department for the year was £5,517 os. 3d. and the expenditure £8,581 18s. 5d.

Control of Petrol Measuring Appliances.

Prior to October 1st, 1926, the fees for verification were only payable when the instrument was found correct and stamped. Under the Weights and Measures (Amendment) Act, 1926, the fees are payable whether or not the apparatus is found correct or is stamped. No fee, however, is payable in respect of any weight, measure or weighing or measuring instrument voluntarily submitted for re-verification, provided that at the time of such submission it bears a stamp of verification. This exception has been introduced so as not to interfere with the practice of traders submitting their weighing and measuring appliances in order to satisfy themselves that they are correct. Under the same Act the Board of Trade may, by regulations, apply to enactments governing the use of weights, measures, and weighing machines to such measuring instruments as they deem proper, enabling inspectors to control petrol measuring instruments.



SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY BUSHEL MEASURE.

Annual Inspection of Traders' Premises.

With regard to the out-door work, the Board of Trade requires all traders' premises where weighing and measuring appliances are used to be inspected, with few exceptions, at least once a year. The number of premises liable to inspection within the city is estimated at 17,000. The weights which upon inspection are found to be light through ordinary wear and tear are marked by obliterating the stamp, and the trader is instructed to have the defective weights re-adjusted, which is mostly done by the department. In the central area the weights are sent to the office in Corporation Street; in outside areas the work is done at temporary stamping offices opened during the period that the inspector is working a particular neighbourhood.

Control of the sale of coal and coke, and also of bread, engages a considerable proportion of the inspectors' time, and a motor car belonging to the department carries a weighing instrument which is used for checking bags of coal.

Before the passing of the Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926, it was only in reference to coal, bread, and tea that an inspector was authorized to take proceedings for short weight, but now a whole host of groceries, cooked foods, and cereals are included. Butchers' meat is also required to be sold by net weight, and milk must be sold by measure and only quantities of half-pint or multiples of half-pint.

Besides the ordinary verification work a considerable number of articles are checked as to weight or measure to settle disputes between buyer and seller, and all the modern equivalents of Sir Samuel Marrow's 1674 bushel measure are in the care of the department. In the open space behind the Town Hall public standards of length are installed, the mural standards comprising inch, foot, two feet, yard, and metre; the measures marked on the pavement being 100 feet, 66 feet, pole, and decametre.

COTTON WASTE CLEANING RAGS AND
SPONGE CLOTHS (SWABS).



OIL REFINERS.

ACCUMULATOR ACID DISTILLED WATER
AND AMMONIA.

Water soft as satin!

Easily and cheaply you can soften the hardest water by melting in the bath a Reckitt's Bath Cube. For Reckitt's Bath Cubes take all the edge off hard water and make it all satin and sympathy, yes, and very fragrant too!

RECKITT'S BATH CUBES



*Lavender, Verbena, Essence of Flowers,
and Lily of the Valley*

RECKITT & SONS LTD., HULL AND LONDON

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928—1929.

SECTION XI.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES

PUBLIC BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

It is interesting to recall how public washing facilities were first introduced into this country. In 1832, when cholera raged in Liverpool and cleanliness was urged as a most important factor in combating the epidemic, a Mrs. Catherine Wilkinson, a labourer's wife, afterwards known as "Kitty of Liverpool," offered to her less fortunate friends the use of the copper and drying ground of her humble abode. Aided by the District Provident Society and some benevolent persons, this courageous and large-hearted woman enabled washing for about eighty-five families to be done weekly for about six years, for which a modest charge of one penny was imposed per wash to assist in defraying the expenses.

This pioneer work was reflected in the Press, and at public meetings throughout the country. Following this publicity, a meeting was convened in the Town Hall of Birmingham on November 19th, 1844, at which a committee, afterwards called the "Public Baths Association," was formed, and the sum of £4,400 raised by subscription towards the provision of public washing facilities. A site fronting Kent Street and Gooch Street was acquired, but nothing further was done, as it became known that legislation was contemplated to enable public authorities to raise capital for the purpose.



DRESSING PAVILION, CANNON HILL BATH.

First Municipal Baths and Wash-houses.

After the passing of the Baths and Wash-houses Act in 1846 the interests of the Association were vested in the Town Council, and in October, 1848, the Council sanctioned the erection of the first suite of baths and wash-houses on the site purchased by the Association, at an estimated cost of £10,000.

The scheme included two swimming ponds, sixty-nine washing baths, three plunge baths, laundry, and a public wash-house containing facilities to enable twenty-five persons to do their washing at one time. This building was opened in May, 1851, and during the first year the attendance of bathers numbered 78,715. The public wash-house did not at first prove the success that was anticipated, owing to landlords providing wash-houses in the courtyards for their tenants.

Two Million Bathers at Public and Private Baths.

The demand for public baths has probably been as great in Birmingham as in most other large towns or cities in this country. The number of bathing establishments and open-air baths which have been added since the original Kent Street establishment was erected is shown in the following list :

Bathing Establishment or open-air Baths.	Date opened.	Swimming Baths.	Private Baths.
Bournville Lane	25-7-1911	1	19
Erdington	6-5-1925	1	24*†
Green Lane	29-10-1902	2	44
Grove Lane	29-1-1907	2	23*
Harborne	13-12-1923	1	37
‡Kent Street (Old)	12-5-1851	2	54
" " (New)	30-3-1914	1	18
King's Heath	15-8-1923	1	40
Monument Road	27-2-1883	2	45*
Moseley Road	30-10-1907	2	46
Nechells	22-6-1910	1	29
Northwood Street	5-3-1862	2	51
Saltley	30-7-1924	1	—
Tiverton Road	29-8-1906	2	26
Victoria Road	5-10-1892	2	24
Woodcock Street (reconstructed)	14-4-1926	2	35
Cannon Hill Park (reconstructed)	15-6-1921	1	—
Victoria Park(reconstructed)..	14-6-1922	1	—
Bacchus Road Cottage	29-2-1912	0	26
Brearley Street Cottage	29-2-1912	0	18
Coventry Street Cottage	1-10-1908	0	29
Lower Dartmouth Street	29-6-1914	0	24
Grosvenor Road	12-7-1924	0	28
Saltley (Norton)	13-6-1923	0	44
Willis Street	12-7-1924	0	34
Central Laundry, Woodcock Street	14-4-1926	0	—

*Also Turkish Baths.

†Also Russian Baths.

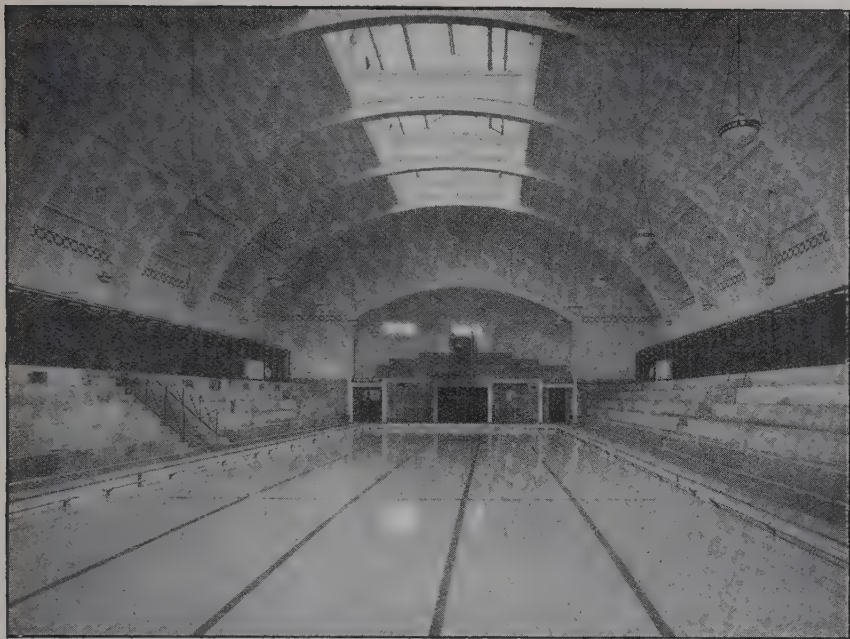
‡Closed for demolition.

During the year 1927-1928 there were nearly two million bathers at the private swimming, Russian, and Turkish baths. No specialized treatment is given at these baths at present, but powers are being sought to enable the Corporation to install medicinal, electric ray, vibro-massage and other forms of bathing.

Since 1918 the accommodation of dwelling houses in the industrial area of the City has been considerably over-taxed, resulting in a pressing demand for the provision of public wash-houses. In order to meet the needs of one of the most congested areas, where the death-rate is among the highest in the City, the Council sanctioned the erection of a modern wash-house in St. George's Street, Hockley. This wash-house, which was opened by the Lord Mayor in January, 1928, is equipped with twelve power-driven washing machines, twelve hand-wash stalls, six electrically-driven hydro extractors, five power-driven mangles, and twelve drying cabinets. These machines materially reduce manual labour, and enable an average week's washing for a family of five to be completed in from two to three hours, including drying, mangling, and ironing—a boon and a blessing to the citizens who use the building. This wash-house is large enough for dealing with the weekly washing of about 600 to 650 families, and at a charge of about 1s. per wash it will be practically self-supporting.



PUBLIC WASH-HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S STREET.



GALA SWIMMING BATH, WOODCOCK STREET.

Swimming Clubs. Mixed Bathing.

There are about sixty swimming clubs in the City, which meet at the various baths and give instruction in swimming, life-saving, and diving, organize races, water polo, and other aquatic events, and afford recreation and amusement to all of those interested in swimming ; this fact probably accounts for the high position Birmingham now holds amongst swimmers. Mixed bathing has been permitted at the appropriate establishments since 1914, and is very popular, as it affords families and friends the opportunity to bathe together. The greatest use of the swimming baths is made between April 1st and September 30th.

Assembly Halls.

During the winter months several of the swimming baths are closed and converted into spacious assembly halls for large concerts, at which seating accommodation for 1,600 can be made, or, alternately, dance halls for from 600 to 800 dancers. About 2,040 separate lettings are possible for dances, boxing exhibitions, gymnasium displays, lectures, and public meetings, and on Saturday evenings, generally speaking, about 10,000 people are to be found in the several assembly halls of the department enjoying recreation in some form or other.

The Gala Bath for Championship Events.

The Gala Bath at Woodcock Street, opened on May 14th, 1926, is regarded by the Amateur Swimming Association as the best known to them for its purpose, being used for international and championship swimming events. It is of special design, and has seating and standing capacity for

about 1,900 persons. The water area measures 100 feet by 35 feet, and the bath has a capacity of 120,000 gallons. To warn bathers of their approach to the deeper water, a red line is inserted in the tiling of the bottom and the sides of the bath.

The diving stands are of a design approved by the Amateur Diving Association, the topmost board being 16 feet 3 inches from the surface of the water. Dressing boxes on the upper promenade are collapsible to provide accommodation for spectators when the bath is being used for gala or sports, and dressing rooms for competitors are provided under the galleries.

Behind this bath is situated a central laundry—the largest of its kind in the country—which deals completely with the towels and linen from all bathing establishments of the City. Thirty-two thousand towels, equivalent to twenty-one miles of towelling, are washed, sterilized, dried, ironed, and folded on a normal summer day.

Cottage Baths, Children's Bathing, etc.

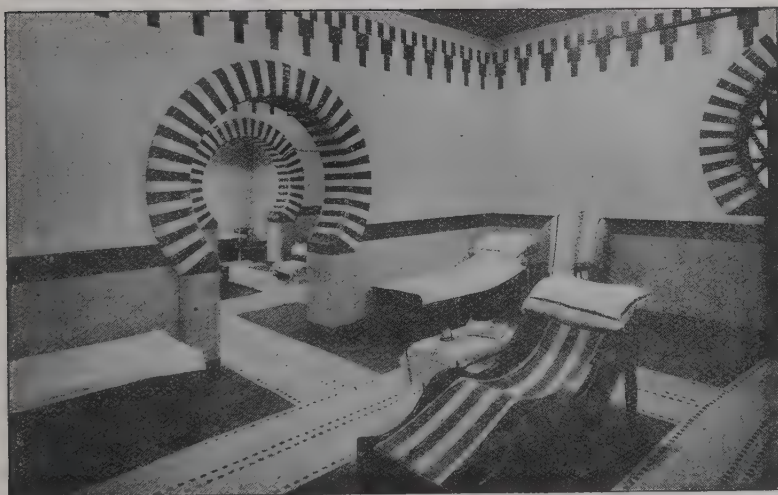
A type of bathing establishment almost exclusive to Birmingham and Bradford is what is known as "Cottage Baths," which originally consisted of a cottage in which a boiler and a few washing or private baths for both sexes were either fitted into existing rooms, or additions made to the building to accommodate them, and could be managed by special arrangement with a minimum of staff at little expense. This system enabled more establishments to be provided for bathers, at less capital expenditure, and consequently facilitated the introduction of lower admission charges. A mother can bring little children to these baths and give them a good bath at "two a penny." To-day the so-called "cottage baths" are fitted with a large number of washing baths instead of a few, and are erected among the older and poorer type of dwellings.



GALA BATH, WOODCOCK STREET, AS ASSEMBLY HALL.

When Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was a member of the City Council he advocated that special concessions and reduced rates for the admission of scholars to the public baths should be granted. To-day children of the elementary schools attend the baths free of cost to themselves during school hours. Such services cannot be assessed commercially, and due regard is paid to this aspect by legislation, which permits a Baths Department to be a charge on the rates.

At several of the larger establishments the water is obtained from a borehole on the site, and in all other cases from the City's supply mains.



HOT ROOM, TURKISH BATHS, HANDSWORTH.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XII.

THE CIVIC UNDERTAKINGS

INTRODUCTORY: FINANCE

THE CITY'S FINANCES.

It is impossible to give an adequate survey of the finances of a City such as Birmingham, in the space available in a publication of this description; it would involve the reproduction of numerous accounts and statements.

The table given on the next page, which is published in the Annual Abstract of Accounts, 1928, gives some of the more important features and show their comparison with the preceding four years. Some comments on a few of the figures, together with other information of general interest, are given in the following paragraphs.

Debt Outstanding.

Out of the amount of debt outstanding at the 31st March, 1928 (Item 15), £29,275,267 relates to the trading departments and other reproductive undertakings, the balance of £9,563,419 being in respect of non-reproductive schemes. The loans outstanding comprise 42 per cent. "funded" (repayable after 15 years), 40 per cent. "floating" (repayable within 5 years), the remaining 18 per cent. being "partly funded" and due for repayment at various dates between 5 and 15 years distant.

Loans Repaid.

It will be seen that considerably over one million pounds is now provided annually from the various revenue accounts of the Corporation towards the repayment of debt.

Profit of Trading Undertakings.

During the year 1927-28, £112,200 was contributed by the Electric Supply, Gas and Tramway Accounts to the relief of rates. For several years previously approximately this amount has been provided annually. Since the acquisition of these undertakings by the Corporation, the total relief to rates amounts to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds. Owing to the heavy loan charges on the Water Undertaking, consequently upon the Elan Valley Scheme, some assistance from the rates is necessary. The deficiency, however, has steadily declined for some years now and in 1927-28, £31,735 only was so required.

Rates.

Since the year 1923-24, the City Council has adopted the policy of rate stabilisation. A diagram is reproduced showing the rates levied from 1913-14 to 1928-29, from which it will be seen that for 5 years the rates levied stood at 16s. in the £. For the year 1928-29, a new valuation is in operation. In consequence of this, the rates for the year are 14s. 6d. This figure, however, represents practically the same burden as did the higher rates based upon the old valuation. The amount of rates collected during 1927-28, represents £4 7s. 11d. per head of population, £3 2s. 3d. being in respect of the services administered by the City, the balance of £1 5s. 8d. being for the Guardians, etc.

Motor Taxation Licences.

The proceeds of these licences do not form part of the revenue of the City. They are collected by the City Treasurer on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, who bear the whole cost of collection. The amounts received from the Road Fund, by way of grants in respect of roads do not bear any relation to the amount collected in the district. It is interesting to note, however, that in the year ended 30th November, 1928, the total amount collected was £527,678, an increase of 80 per cent. over 1923. The number of licences issued last year, was Private Cars 36,613, Cycles 48,569, and Commercial 13,682, compared with 14,051, 22,295 and 7,708 respectively in 1923.

GENERAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS.

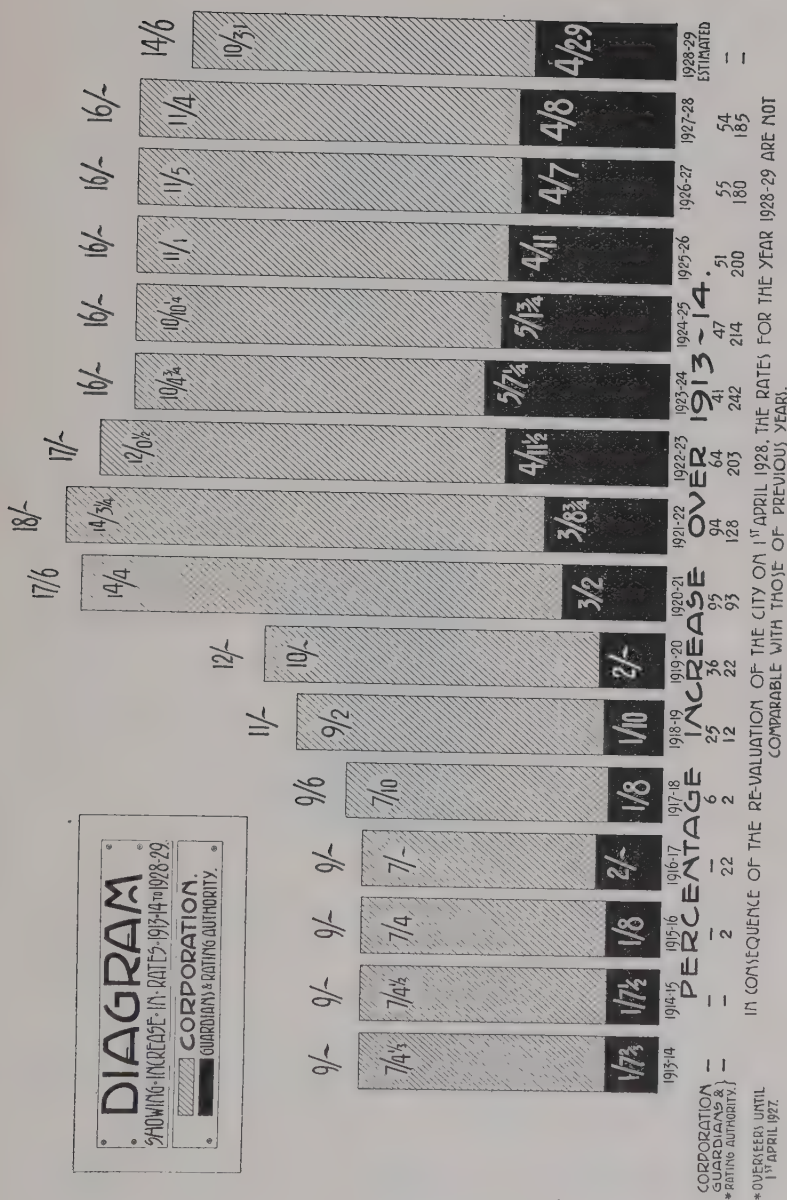
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
RATES AND ASSESSMENTS.					
1. Assessable Value.....	£5,566,686	£5,659,583	£5,789,447	£5,925,782	£5,981,493
2. Rateable Value.....	£5,595,155	£5,686,871	£5,814,738	£5,949,979	£6,004,596†
3. Rateable Value per head of population.....	£5 18s. 6d.	£5 19s. 4d.	£6 1s. 0d.	£6 2s. 9d.	£6 3s. 4d.
4. Produce of 1d. Rate (Average).....	£20,986	£21,344	£21,757	£22,211	£22,231*
5. Number of Rated Assessments in the City.....	221,990	225,673	231,813	238,144	243,950
AMOUNT RAISED FROM RATES.					
6. Corporation's Expenses....	£2,578,416	£2,676,069	£2,814,168	£2,925,068	£2,989,320
7. Guardians' Expenses.....	£1,316,032	£1,255,900	£1,220,100	£1,192,821	£1,236,346
8. Overseers' Expenses.....	£39,993	£38,634	£38,174	£44,513	—
9. Rating Authority's Expenses.....	—	—	—	—	£22,507
LOANS.					
10. Total Loans raised.....	£39,040,383	£42,208,211	£45,745,646	£53,002,198	£56,500,850
11. Capital Expenditure (<i>i.e.</i> , defrayed from Loans)....	£37,962,087	£41,355,842	£45,809,452	£51,739,809	£55,558,571
12. Debt Repaid.....	£12,369,187	£13,121,561	£13,979,211	£14,869,691	£15,948,210
13. Loans outstanding (Line No. 10 less No. 12).....	£26,671,196	£29,086,650	£31,766,435	£38,132,507	£40,552,640
14. Redemption and Sinking Funds in hand or invested	£1,375,558	£1,463,714	£1,511,143	£2,017,942	£1,713,954
15. Net Loan Debt (Line No. 13 less No. 14).....	£25,295,638	£27,622,936	£30,255,292	£36,114,565	£38,838,686
16. Net Debt per head of population.....	£26 15s. 9d.	£28 19s. 10d	£31 9s. 6d.	£37 4s. 10d.	£39 17s. 6d.
17. Loans advanced to Departments during year.....	£2,240,403	£3,337,088	£4,138,471	£7,288,743	£3,975,624
18. Loans repaid by Departments during year— Sinking Fund Instalments	£764,276	£825,370	£916,476	£970,060	£1,153,376
Proceeds of Sales, etc....	£79,508	£181,318	£387,776	£431,743	£90,896
19. Loans outstanding under Sec. 234 (2) Public Health Act, 1875.....	£2,092,125	£2,091,376	£1,885,263	£2,232,624	£2,625,002
REVENUE.					
20. Turnover of the Corporation.....	£11,250,398	£11,695,737	£12,236,579	£13,825,279	£14,093,427
21. Government Grants (included in Line No. 22)...	£1,575,225	£1,654,260	£1,696,697	£1,808,090	£1,890,586

† The new Valuation List under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, came into operation on the 1st April, 1928, when the rateable value was £6,774,913.

* By the operation of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, the produce of 1d. Rate for 1928 is arrived at after deducting the cost of collection.

NOTE.—A portion of the parish of Perry Barr was incorporated in the City as from 1st April, 1928, under the provisions of the Birmingham Extension Act, 1927. The figures given above for 1928 relate only to the City as it stood prior to the extension.

DIAGRAM
 SHOWING INCREASE IN RATES-1913-14-1928-29
 CORPORATION.
 GUARDIAN'S RATING AUTHORITY.



Screwing Machines for all classes of work

Made in
four
sizes

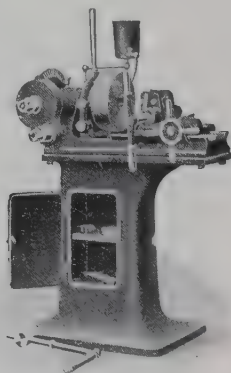


$\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 2" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 3" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 4" Tubes

The Handy Bench Screwing Machine for hand power, with two speeds, and open-jaw duplex grip vice.

Bolt Dies can be supplied for all sizes within the capacity of the machine.

Made in
five
sizes



$\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Tubes
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 2" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 3" Tubes
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 4" Tubes

Improved belt driven Screwing Machine mounted on well designed Cabinet Stand with Cupboard for storing dies and loose tools. With three speed (or four speed for No. 4 size) cone pulley and overhead countershaft. Bow Lever non-stop release to dies.

Bolt Dies can be supplied for all sizes within the capacity of the machine.

Richard Lloyd & Co. Ltd.

Telephone Central 7251.
(6 lines)
Telegrams :
"Cogs, Birmingham"

Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham

Codes :
Lieber's, A.B.C.
Bentley's

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XIII.

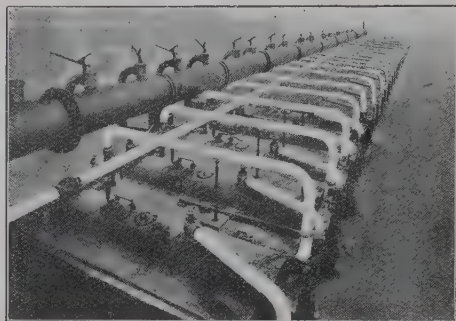
THE CIVIC UNDERTAKINGS

GAS: LIGHT, HEATING & POWER

NEWALLS INSULATION CO. LTD

WASHINGTON STATION, CO. DURHAM

INSULATE
BOILERS
PIPING
TURBINES
AND ALL
HEATED
SURFACES
WITH
THE MOST
EFFICIENT
INSULATION



85%
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INSULATION ENGINEERS

AT BIRMINGHAM: CANNON PASSAGE, CANNON STREET

"NULSEC"
Lubricants.

Famed for
50
YEARS

The W. Blackwell Oil Co.
Victoria Oil Works, Aston, Birmingham

Proprietors:
W. Blackwell.
Councillor Wm. Blackwell.
Robert Blackwell.

A BRITISH firm manufacturing every class
of Lubricant for Works requirements

Also Manufacturers of

"NULSEC" MOTOROIL

"A grade for every Motor."

We will gladly quote you. May we do so?

OF GREAT SERVICE to the PUBLIC

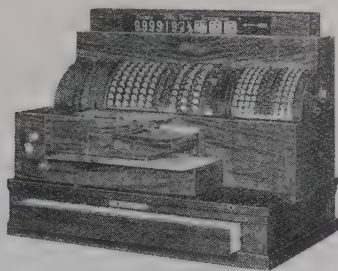
One of the reasons why over 40 Municipalities now use National Office Registers and Accounting Machines is because

EIGHT DEMAND NOTES

can be receipted and recorded in the time normally taken to handle one account. This rapid service is a convenience much appreciated by the public, and a valuable facility to any Municipality.

THE BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION

use six machines in their Gas and Rates Department.



ONE OF THE MUNICIPAL MODELS.

A FEW OTHER ADVANTAGES

the machines afford:

Record amount and receipt demand note at the one time. Each payment automatically added into Classified Fund Total such as "Water," "Electricity," etc. (Twenty seven such dissections available). Printed audit list. Postings kept up-to-date. Cash balanced much more quickly. Better control and easier audit.

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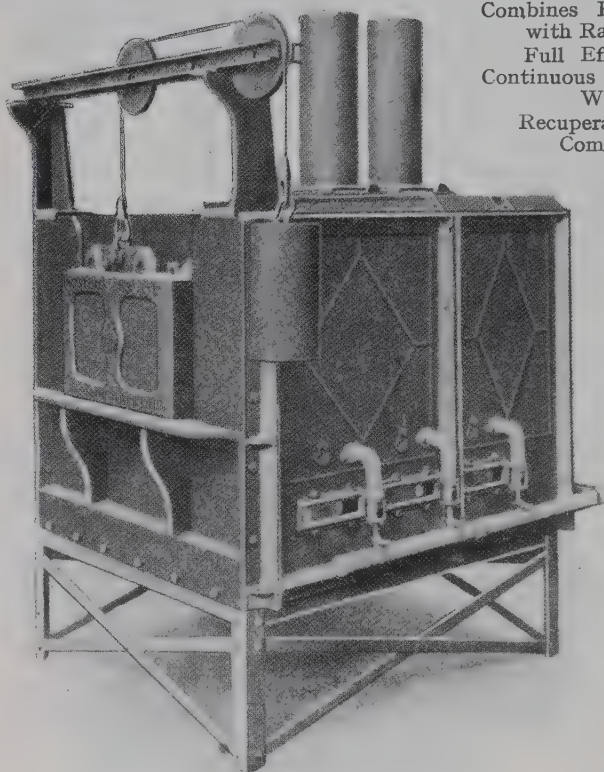
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GAS UNDERTAKING.

BIRMINGHAM to-day is considered one of the best-lighted cities in the United Kingdom. Gas lamps were erected in the early part of the nineteenth century by private individuals and companies, and the early prejudices against their introduction have long since been forgotten. The narrow streets and alleys of the town were then unlighted for the most part, and where any illumination was attempted it was done by evil-smelling link torches or oil lamps of a primitive character. These, like the laborious methods of winning sparks from flint and steel for the lighting of rushlights and candles, gradually gave way to gas.

Now there are something like 29,000 gas lamps in the thoroughfares of the City, and in the over-crowded parts where courts and terraces exist the City Council are exercising their statutory powers to ensure that these also are properly lighted.

Fifty Years' Ownership.

Birmingham has been closely connected with the gas industry since its inception, and 1925 saw the fiftieth year of municipal ownership of the gas undertaking. It is the largest outside London, and plays no mean part in the lives and activities of the citizens of this metropolis of the Midlands.

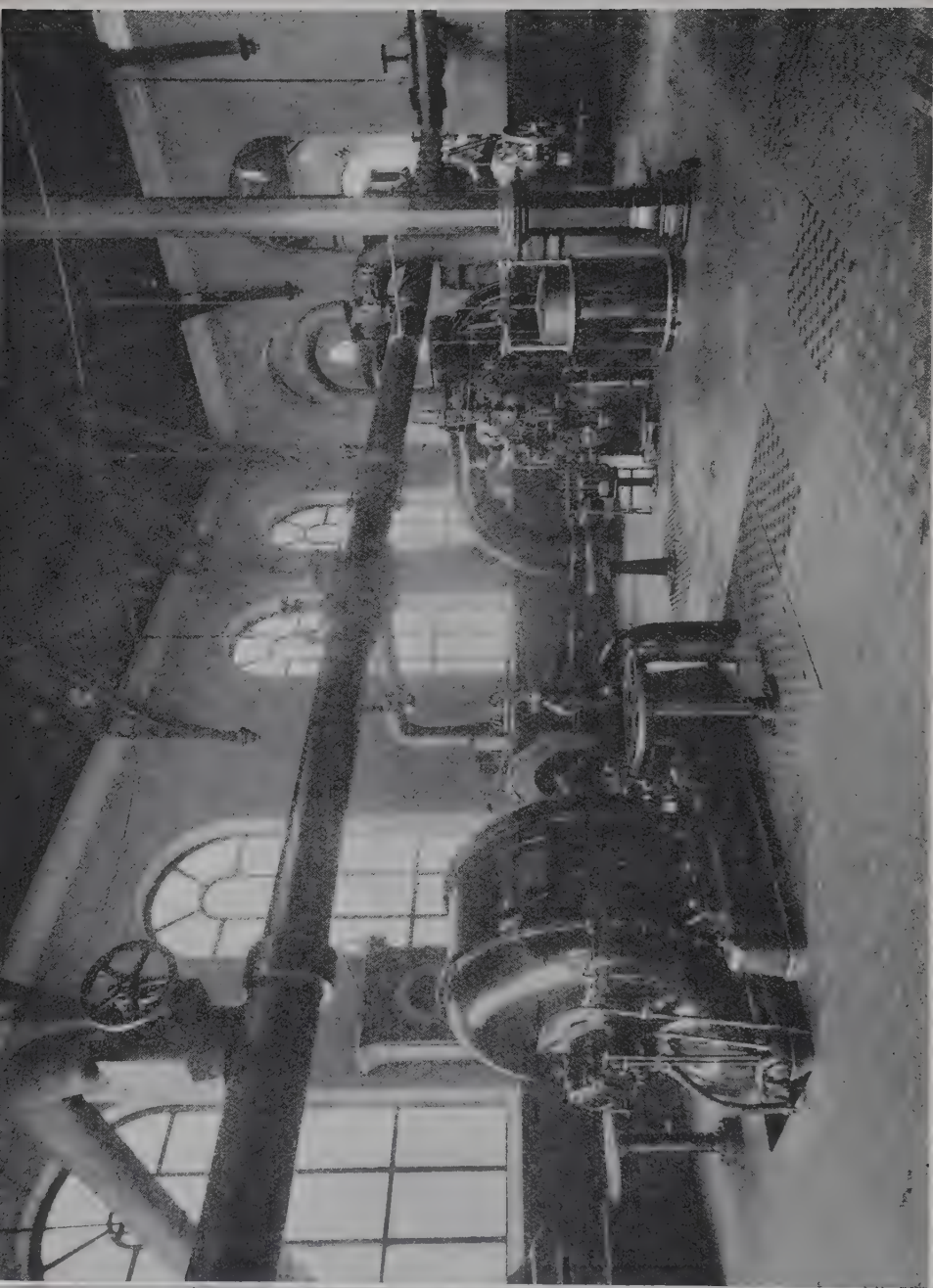
Works.

The Corporation has five gas works and a complete coal testing plant. The following table indicates their manufacturing storage capacity :

	Area Acres.	Daily Manufacturing Capacity (mill. cu. feet of gas).	Storage Capacity (mill. cu. feet of gas).
Windsor Street Works ..	26	25	14½
Nechells Works and Coal Test Plant	24½	26	12
Saltley Works	18	12	5¼
Swan Village Works ..	22	6	3
Adderley Street Works ..	5½	2½	1
Washwood Heath Works	34	—	11½
Totals	130	71½	47½

It is anticipated that, owing to the increased demand, manufacturing plant will have to be installed at Washwood Heath in the course of a year or two. The two gasholders recently erected there are the largest twin gasholders in Europe, and each of the tanks has a water content of 10,000,000 gallons.

Important developments in the carbonization of coal have taken place during the last few years, and practically every well-known and tried system is in operation at the Birmingham gas works, and the plant is of the most



CAS. EXHAUSTERS. WINDSOR. STREET. WORKS.

up-to-date character. To manufacture the gas which was consumed in the twelve months ended March, 1928, the department carbonized 827,605 tons of coal. Frequently in the winter, during the heaviest periods of consumption, upwards of 21,000 tons of coal are carbonized per week. Little gas-coal is available locally, the most suitable for carbonization coming from South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire. Transportation from these areas has a bearing on the price of gas, but Birmingham compares favourably in this respect with the prices prevailing throughout the country.

Three thousand railway wagons are needed to convey the coal required at the works, and about 1,600 trucks are owned by the department. The control and working of these wagons is a business in itself, and in order to maintain them in good condition, and to get the utmost service from them, an up-to-date repair service depôt has been erected. To this depôt all wagons owned by the undertaking are brought in periodically for over-haul, repairs, and painting.

Water Gas and Residuals.

To meet sudden increases in the demand for gas—such as are caused by a sudden fall in temperature (which often means an increase in the output of several million cubic feet per day)—the making of carburetted water-gas is resorted to, and in this connection the Birmingham Gas Department purchases many millions of gallons of oil in the course of a year.

The residual products of gas manufacture have become indispensable to the carrying on of many other important industries. They are many and varied, but at the Birmingham gas works only a few of the known residuals are worked up, most of the crude tar and ammoniacal liquor being sold to contractors who work them up in the district. The production of crude tar is 11,000,000 gallons and ammoniacal liquor 33,000,000 gallons a year. The sales of coke are nearly 40,000 tons a year, and the sulphate of ammonia produced at Saltley and Swan Village Works is exported to many parts of the world.

Supplying an Area of 125 Square Miles.

The department supplies gas over a very large area, including the districts of Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Sutton Coldfield, approximately 125 square miles, and throughout the district over 1,264 miles of mains of sizes varying from two inches to forty-eight inches are in existence. The mileage of mains is practically three times greater than it was when the undertaking was acquired in 1875.

The present output of gas is an indication of the department's enormous growth. In 1875 the total amount of gas produced by the two companies acquired was 1,800,000,000 cubic feet; the department now supplies this quantity in one winter month, and the following table gives the progressive increase in the output up to the present time:

Year.		Cubic feet.	Year.		Cubic feet.
1876	.. ..	2,649,542,000	1910	.. ..	7,545,150,000
1880	.. ..	2,887,180,000	1915	.. ..	10,365,908,000
1885	.. ..	3,361,158,000	1920	.. ..	12,013,340,000
1890	.. ..	3,845,966,000	1925	.. ..	13,358,368,000
1895	.. ..	4,494,943,000	1926	.. ..	14,051,666,000
1900	.. ..	5,944,183,000	1927	.. ..	13,928,756,000
1905	.. ..	6,625,270,000	1928	.. ..	14,220,814,000



CASHOLDERS, NECHELLS WORKS.

The record daily output was created on December 20th, 1927, by well over 62,000,000 cubic feet being distributed, and during the week ended December 24th of the same year a record weekly output of more than 379,000,000 cubic feet was attained. The growth in the consumption of gas per mile of main has been abnormal. In 1875 this was 4,500,000 cubic feet; to-day it is 11,000,000 cubic feet.

Wages Bill of £500,000 a Year.

The capital value of the undertaking when it was taken over in 1875 was £2,000,931; to-day the amount outstanding is £2,693,099, although the department is at least six times the size. The turnover is about £2,500,000 per annum, against £470,000 in 1876, and of this large sum the bad debts in the year ended March, 1928, amounted to only £788, or .031 per cent. In its fifty years' existence the Gas Undertaking has contributed £1,819,557 to relief of the rates, and the figures for the past few years will be found in the Chapter on the City Finances. They indicate the prosperity which has attended the undertaking since its formation. It now employs 4,000 people, with a wages bill of half a million pounds a year.

In 1875 there were 46,000 consumers, now increased to over 236,000 and 102,900 of these take supplies through ordinary meters, the remaining 133,000 through prepayment meters. The number of consumers has increased by 44,000 during the last five years.

The average consumption per prepayment meter amounts to 27,000 cubic feet per annum. Birmingham was one of the first to adopt the meter, the introduction, being made in 1894, as a means of popularizing the use of gas in small houses. The pennies so collected yearly amount to over £600,000.

Cookers to the total of 225,100 have been installed, over 124,000 of these being in connection with prepayment supplies in artisans' dwellings, and 127,000 gas fires and hot-water apparatus. The department fixes annually upwards of 13,000 cookers of various kinds on sale outright, permanent hire, and hire-purchase terms, and in the same period about 16,000 gas fires are installed.

Much Abused but Trustworthy Meters.

More than 100 years have elapsed since the gas-meter was invented, and, although much abused, it is one of the most trustworthy mechanical appliances in use to-day. A special meter testing station has been installed in Birmingham, under the control of the City Justices, through which every new meter made in the district is passed. For the purpose of repairing, and to a certain extent making meters, the department has erected extensive shops at the Windsor Street Works. In the course of twelve months many thousands of meters and stoves are passed through for cleaning and repairing.

The showrooms are some of the best equipped in the country. Besides the main showroom at the Council House, branch offices and showrooms have been built at Sutton Coldfield, King's Norton, Acock's Green, Erdington, Wednesbury, Harborne, and Paradise Street.

The large amount of building work which has taken place during the last few years has rendered it advisable to create a special section which can assist architects and builders, and give them the fullest advice with regard to the fitting up of new houses with gas pipes and modern gas apparatus. It has been much appreciated and helpful in creating labour-saving homes in the district.



An 1808 Gas Plant for Soldering Toys.

One of the earliest instances of the use of gas for industrial purposes in Birmingham was in 1808, when a gas plant was erected for a toy manufacturer, who used it for soldering purposes.

The increase in the amount of town's gas used for industrial heating in the various manufacturing centres has, in some instances, been almost phenomenal. Manufacturers are realizing the advantages to be gained by the use of gas as fuel in the place of solid fuel, and to-day in Birmingham it is used in thousands of processes and in most trades.

Industrial Heating.

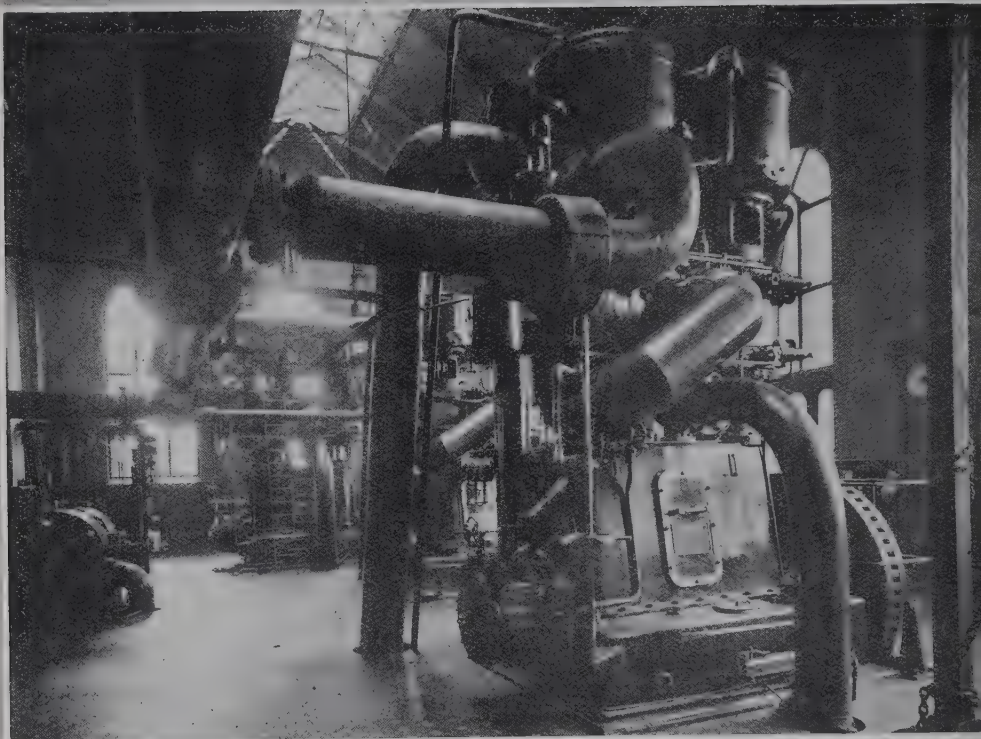
Manufacturers within the area of supply of the Gas Department are offered facilities for advice and information which are almost unique, and on a scale which has come to be the admiration of many cities and gas undertakings, not only in this country, but throughout the world.

It is now seventeen years since the Gas Committee inaugurated the Industrial Heating Section, which has proved its value by its progressive development. This section is now merged with the work of the Industrial Research Laboratories formed in 1916 to extend the usefulness and value of the section devoted to industrial gas development, by providing facilities for all kinds of test of materials, chemical testing and heat treatment work.

Gas-heated furnaces of all types, both large and small, are installed at the Demonstration Rooms and Heat Treatment Shops, which manufacturers are able to test thoroughly on a practical scale with their own materials and workmen if necessary, before purchase. Special furnaces are continually being designed, and experimental work of a practical nature is always being carried out by this section of the Department. It is an axiom of this section that no industrial application is too small or too large for consideration by town gas heating. An after-sales service for the repair and maintenance of furnaces has been built up, which undoubtedly has been the means of retaining and extending many industrial gas consumptions, to the satisfaction of both the Gas Department, and, what is more important, its consumer customer.

From the following table it will be seen that the quantity of gas used for industrial heating purposes during the last 18 years has increased by approximately 2,454,718,900 cubic feet.

Year ending 31st March.	Total Gas Sold.	Total for Industrial Heating.	Industrial Heating per cent. of total.
1911	7,693,899,300	389,511,000	5.06
1912	8,089,641,400	482,854,200	5.97
1913	8,773,044,600	609,424,800	6.95
1914	9,551,783,300	793,840,400	8.31
1915	9,887,664,900	905,271,000	9.16
1916	10,796,405,600	1,496,742,100	13.86
1917	11,156,832,900	2,216,048,400	19.86
1918	12,006,496,700	2,680,489,200	22.33
1919	11,424,842,000	2,522,338,600	22.08
1920	11,329,113,800	1,910,643,600	16.86
1921	11,734,970,300	2,005,839,200	17.09
1922	10,264,218,300	1,345,637,300	13.11
1923	10,937,923,300	1,665,257,100	15.22
1924	12,017,086,400	2,057,283,000	17.12
1925	12,659,612,900	2,309,976,800	18.25
1926	13,389,831,100	2,643,998,600	19.75
1927	13,338,242,400	2,605,287,200	19.53
1928	13,581,191,000	2,844,229,900	20.94



GAS COMPRESSORS, WINDSOR STREET WORKS.

The output of gas under the heading "Total for Industrial Heating," does not include gas used for motive power, which, if included for the year ended March 31st, 1928, makes the percentage of gas used in manufacture 28.01 per cent. The increase in the total gas sold during the year ended March, 1928, compared with the previous year, amounted to no less than 242,948,600 cubic feet, whilst the increase for industrial heating purposes amounted to 238,942,700, both figures constituting a record in the history of the Department.

The foregoing figures are eloquent testimony to the progressive nature of Birmingham's Gas Department, the City's oldest and most prosperous trading undertaking.

Achievement



is the result of steadfast adherence to a definite aim. For over 50 years the policy of the Birmingham Gas Department has been to give the best possible service to its customers.

During that period the number of gas consumers has increased over fourfold, and the amount of gas sold is now six times as great.

To-day, gas appliances are giving efficient and reliable service in all homes, increasing comfort and reducing housework.

In the factory, also, gas is being increasingly adopted for its cleanliness, efficiency and reliability, and is assisting in no small measure to maintain the high standard of manufactures for which Birmingham is noted.

The Department has specially equipped Industrial Research Laboratories, which are always at the service of manufacturers.



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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XIV.

THE CIVIC UNDERTAKINGS

THE WATER SUPPLY



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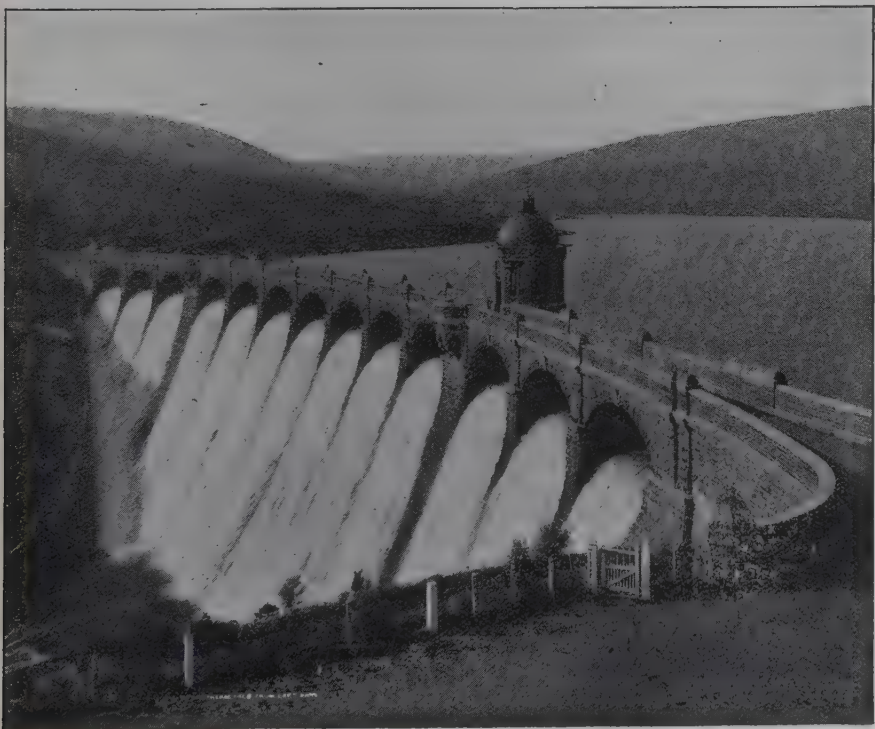
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WATER SUPPLY.

BIRMINGHAM has at her command an endless stream of sparkling water which gravitates over seventy miles from wild Wales to quench thirst and remove the grime and grease that a City's industry brings in its train. The novelty of the civic achievement has worn off, and citizens no longer hold a drinking glass where the light marks a faint straw-like colouring that mountain peat has introduced, nor remark the soap-saving softness of the washing water.

About seventy years ago Birmingham still relied upon mediæval sources for the greater part of her water supply. These sources were private and public wells, and the Waterworks Company was only able to serve one-third of the population; two thirds of the town, therefore, obtained its water from wells in the city or bought their supplies from water carts at a halfpenny a bucket.



CRAIG GÔCH DAM AND RESERVOIR.

Fifty, Sixty, Seventy Years Ago.

In 1849, the wells, almost without exception, were in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the water supply in the town was only comparable with that at Manchester, where, upon analysis, it was found that the whole of the ninety wells from which that town obtained its water "were more or less impregnated with impurities, some of them . . . most offensively so."

Attempts had been made as early as 1808 to provide the town with an organized supply of water, but it was not until 1826 that Parliament granted powers constituting "the Company of Proprietors of the Birmingham Waterworks for the purpose of providing a sufficient and constant supply of good and wholesome water for domestic, manufacturing, and other purposes." The area of supply was 2,215 acres, and the prescribed sources the River Tame and Hawthorn Brook. The latter was not used, however, and the powers of the company over it consequently lapsed. In 1831 the waters of the River Tame were turned into Aston Reservoir, and the first supply was pumped into a small storage reservoir in Edgbaston; the company commenced trading with forty-one customers, yielding a revenue of £133. A constant supply of water was provided throughout the company's area in 1853, and it is believed at that time Birmingham enjoyed the distinction of being the only town in the country with a constant supply of water.

In 1854 and 1866 applications were made to Parliament for authority to increase the capital and extend the company's works and area of supply. The applications were granted, and another application in 1870 still further extended the area of supply and permitted the construction of additional works. The area of supply was now 54,209 acres, the area of the gathering grounds 190 square miles, and the estimated daily supply 17.3 million gallons.

Birmingham Buys the Old Waterworks Company.

In their Improvement Act of 1851 the Corporation were empowered to obtain by compulsory purchase all the works and interests of the company, and subsequently gave notice of their intention to purchase. The scheme was not carried through, however, and the powers consequently lapsed. It was not until 1875, during the mayoralty of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, that renewed powers were secured, under the Birmingham Corporation Act of that year, and on January 1st, 1876, the Waterworks undertaking passed into the possession of the town, the purchase being carried out, like that of the gas undertakings, by the creation of the perpetual annuities. The total length of mains was then 266 miles.

The Corporation in 1879 obtained powers to raise further capital, and took steps to increase the daily supply to about 20,000,000 gallons and to provide storage therefor in fourteen reservoirs of a total capacity of 628.5 million gallons. By this time the area of supply had become largely extended, and towards the end of the nineteenth century it became manifest that the Corporation were reaching the end of their resources, and that some of the sources of supply were suspect. Provision for the future became urgent, owing not only to increasing population and area to be supplied, but also to the demand for improved sanitary conditions. After an exhaustive inquiry, it was found impossible to obtain the needed supply from local sources, and it was decided to go to Wales for water.

Acquisition of Gathering Grounds in Wales.

After some opposition, the City Council secured the Birmingham



PEN-Y-GAREG DAM.

Corporation Water Act, 1892, which authorized the acquisition of gathering grounds of the upper portion of the River Elan and its tributary, the River Claerwen, covering an area of 45,562 acres, situate in the counties of Radnor, Brecknock, Cardigan, and Montgomery. The Act further authorized the construction of three reservoirs on the Elan and three on the Claerwen, together with an aqueduct for the conveyance of water to Birmingham, a receiving reservoir, filtration works, and pumping station at Frankley, trunk mains for the conveyance of water into the area of distribution, and other subsidiary works. In addition to providing a maximum quantity of 75,000,000 gallons per day for supply to Birmingham, 27,000,000 gallons per day has to be sent down the River Elan as compensation to the River Wye. The compensation water is utilized to generate electricity to light the model village and the works in the Elan Valley.

The work of construction was commenced in 1893, and was sufficiently advanced in 1904 to enable a supply to be given to Birmingham, and the works were opened by H.M. King Edward VII. in that year; it was not until 1906, however, that the works were actually completed.

The gathering ground of the Elan Valley Works consists of hilly country, composed of rocks of the Lower Silurian order, slates, grits, and conglomerates, and rising from 700 to about 2,000 feet above the sea. The long average rainfall over the whole area is 67.2 inches, and the daily yield of the rainfall about 135,000,000 gallons. For storage, six impounding reservoirs, with a total capacity of 18,000,000,000 gallons, were originally projected, but only three on the River Elan have as yet been constructed

After leaving the Caban Reservoir, the first of the three on the River Elan, and flowing through a tunnel about one and a quarter miles long, the water is passed through rough sand gravity filters. After filtration, the water, which is soft and slightly acid, is treated with alkali to such a degree as will prevent any action upon lead pipes in the area of supply. In 1912 it became evident that steps must be taken to augment the capacity of the Elan aqueduct, powers were obtained to borrow money to effect this extension, and in 1914 it was decided to proceed with the laying of an additional line of pipes on the Elan aqueduct. The war intervened, however, and the task of increasing the capacity of the aqueduct is now proceeding by the laying of additional lengths of pipes as circumstances dictate.

The Aqueduct, Reservoirs, and Distribution.

The total length of the aqueduct is seventy-three and half miles, half of which consists of conduit and half of inverted siphon. The conduit lengths comprise about twelve miles of tunnels, and the remainder of "cut and cover." The conduits are all constructed to carry the full ultimate quantity of 75,000,000 gallons a day to Birmingham, and the whole are lined throughout with concrete faced on the sides and invert with blue bricks. There are eleven siphons across the larger valleys, the largest being that across the Severn valley, which is seventeen and a half miles in length.

The water from the aqueduct flows through a recording gauge chamber into the Frankley Storage Reservoir of 200,000,000 gallons capacity—semi-circular in plan and thirty feet deep—then passed on to slow sand filters



CABAN CŏCH DAM, WITH TURBINE AND COMPENSATION HOUSES.



CAREG-DDU VIADUCT AND FOEL TOWER.

of a total area of fourteen acres. From the filters the water flows to one or other of two communicating covered pure water tanks, and from these the greater portion flows by gravitation to the distribution system in the district of supply. The receiving reservoir at Frankley not being of sufficient capacity to tide over any prolonged interruption in the Elan supply consequent upon serious breakdown in the aqueduct, an additional 500,000,000 gallon storage reservoir is being constructed at Bartley.

The Elan supply enters the district at its south-west boundary. One of the two gravitation mains from Frankley conveys the water direct to a 4,000,000 gallon covered service reservoir at Monument Road, and from there it is pumped to the Hagley Road covered service reservoir for distribution in a portion of the high-level zone. The other forty-three-inch main discharges direct into the middle-level zone distribution mains and through them into a covered service reservoir at Highter's Heath, and also communicates indirectly through a network of distribution mains with the Monument Road Reservoir. The forty-two-inch gravitation main from Frankley discharges into the low-level zone distribution system, the covered reservoir for which is at Erdington.

Newly-created Lakeland Vistas.

Too frequently it has become necessary to sacrifice the countryside upon the altar of the physical and industrial requirements of a great city, and it is pleasing, therefore, to reflect that the water undertaking preserves a great area among the Welsh mountains which scarcely differs from the rugged fastnesses depicted by Borrow in "Wild Wales."

In this great gathering ground of Birmingham's water supply there is a population of about a hundred, scattered among hillside farmsteads, whose principal occupation is sheep-farming. Some years ago a census revealed that there were over 60,000 sheep upon the watershed, about a third of which number belonged to the Corporation, and were distributed among the tenants of the department and farmed in accordance with the agreements entered upon. The City owns much of the freehold and the whole of the surface rights of the land comprising the watershed, and the permanence of the lakeland vista is thus assured.

Where possible and advantageous, afforestation has been carried out, and a nursery has been established in the Elan Valley for raising the young conifers for planting.

The waters of the Elan and Claerwen are well known to anglers as a resort for trout fishing, and arrangements are made for fishing in the reservoirs, streams, and natural lakes. The charges range from 2s. 6d. per day to £5 5s. a year, and tickets may be obtained at the Council House or at the Local Estate Office in Rhayader. Boats are available on certain of the waters.

The completion of the Welsh water scheme marks one of the greatest achievements of Birmingham, and is a factor to which the present good health of the community is related.

Stand-by Sources of Supply.

With the advent of the Welsh supply, many of the old sources were discarded, but the works at Whitacre, with water from the Rivers Bourne and Blythe and the deep wells at Aston, Short Heath, and Longbridge, are retained to supplement the supply when the demand in the water area exceeds the capacity of the Elan aqueduct.

Consumption of Water.

The growth of the undertaking is illustrated by the fact that in 1859 the daily average distribution was 3.40 million gallons. In 1876 (the date of acquisition by the Corporation) the consumption had increased to 8.30 million gallons, and by 1895 to 15.97 million gallons, with an estimated population supplied of 649,150. At March 31st, 1928, the average daily distribution was 26,673 million gallons, and the estimated population supplied 1,035,308.

Present Area of Supply.

The statutory area now covers 86,824 acres, or about 135.5 square miles, and comprises the following districts: City of Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield (part), West Bromwich (part), Wythall, Cofton Hackett (part), Illey (part), Bickenhill, Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Curdworth, Minworth, Sheldon, Water Orton, Elmdon and Solihull. Supplies of water in bulk are given as follow: Part of the Coventry Corporation water area, including the City of Coventry and district of Knowle, the villages of Shustoke and Over and Nether Whitacre in the Meriden Rural District, and the village of Fron in the Rhayader Rural District.

Statistics.

The length of trunk and leading mains in the district of supply is roundly 1,000 miles. The total capital authorized by the various Acts of Parliament (including the old works and the Elan supply) is £10,027,492. The basis of water rate levied in the area of supply is fifteen per cent. on the rateable value of the premises supplied. The income of the department for the year ended March 31st, 1928 was £765,136.

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XV.

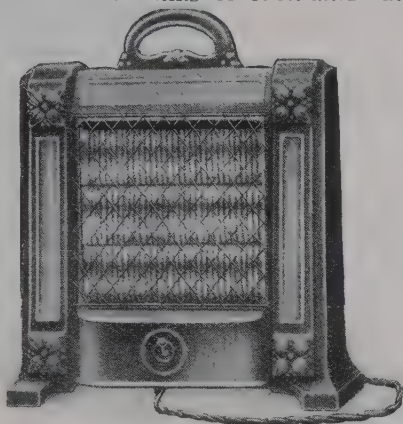
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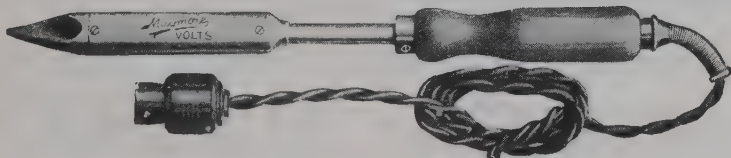


No. 9976 "The BEDROOM"

The range of "Maymore" Electric Fires includes models of varying designs suitable for every apartment. Those finished in Vitreous Enamel strike a distinctive note; the colours including Rich Brown, French Grey, Golden Green, and Bright Green.

Models are made in 1 to 5 Bars.

ELECTRIC SOLDERING IRONS



No. 10226 WIRELESS PATTERN

We manufacture Electric Soldering Irons of practically every pattern for Wireless and Workshops use. They are made for Light or Heavy duty with Straight Type or Hammer Type bits.

Catalogue and Lists will be gladly sent on request.

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G.A.S. Agencies in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

SUPPLIERS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.

STAND No. 4E/1, BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, CASTLE BROMWICH.

ELLISON SWITCHGEAR

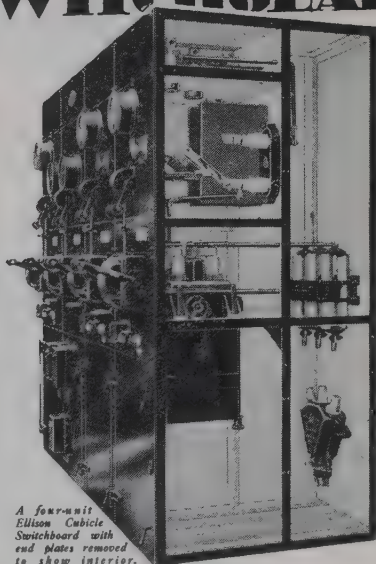
11,000 Volts

Metal-clad Cubicle Type

Designed with good spacing of component parts, clear runs for connections, and easy access. It is difficult to imagine anything safer or more convenient, except perhaps the Ellison Truck Type.



Ellison Cubicle Switchgear built into a transformer kiosk.



A four-unit
Ellison Cubicle
Switchboard with
end plates removed
to show interior.

Isolating Switches, as shown in the illustration above, are operated by a lever interlocked with the oil circuit breaker.

All Connections and Busbars are covered with insulation, yet the clearances all accord with the British Standard Specification for bare metal connections.

The Circuit Breaking Capacity rating is 150,000 k V A. This Breaker is different from the ordinary "back-of-panel" type—being distinctively "Ellison" in design and make. One special feature is the gas chamber above the oil tank with a vent to carry any gas outside the cubicle. No gas can accumulate in the oil tank if the oil level is maintained.

You should see this Switchgear and compare it with other makes.

GEORGE ELLISON

Works : PERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM.

Makers of

METAL - CLAD SWITCHGEAR for SUBSTATIONS

(High and Low Pressure)

CIRCUIT BREAKERS for A.C. and D.C.

(Open and Enclosed)

CONTROL GEAR for A.C. MOTORS.



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STEAM TURBINES

for all LAND purposes and MARINE Auxiliaries

STEAM ENGINES

for all purposes

CONDENSING PLANTS

Surface and Jet for all LAND conditions

HIGH-EFFICIENCY DIESEL OIL ENGINES

for LAND and MARINE work

PARAFFIN ENGINES



BIRMINGHAM

ENGLAND

ESTABLISHED 1852



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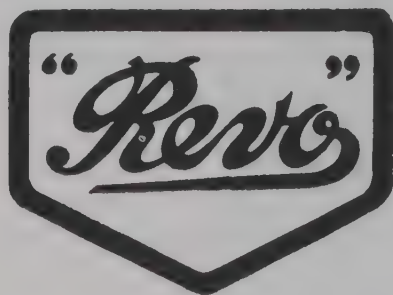
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1928 - 1929

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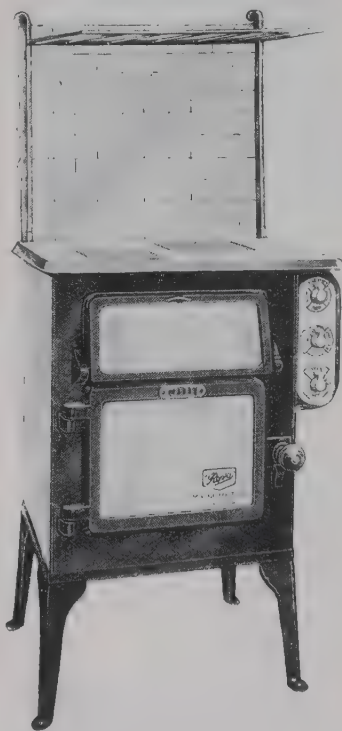


ELECTRIC COOKERS

are obtainable on hire from the
Birmingham Electricity Supply Dept.

and through over
160 Supply Authorities

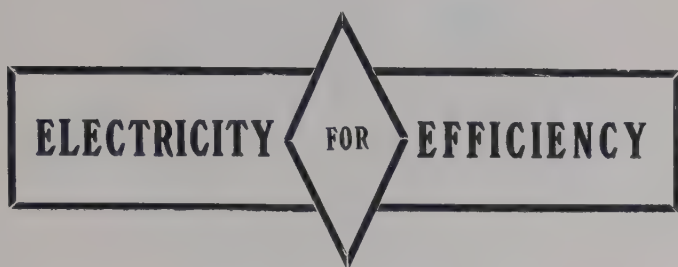
at home and abroad.



The
RELIABILITY
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and
PORCELAIN ENAMEL
FINISH
of the Revo Cookers
is daily assisting to
consolidate their
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THE
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DEPOTS AT:—LONDON: 30, Great Queen St. NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE: 22, Oxford St.
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ELECTRIC SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

CHEAP CURRENT for lighting, power, welding, furnaces, and other industrial purposes.

SPECIAL RATES for supplies to signs, shop window lighting after closing hours, electric vehicle charging, and bakers' ovens

DOMESTIC CONTRACT TARIFF for residential lighting, heating, cooking and other domestic supplies

COOKERS, FANS and MOTORS hired-out at low rates and other apparatus on easy hire-purchase terms

ASSISTED WIRING SCHEME for residential installations

SKILLED ADVICE FREE OF CHARGE.

SHOW ROOMS: 21 Paradise St., BIRMINGHAM
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HEAD OFFICES: 14 DALE END, BIRMINGHAM

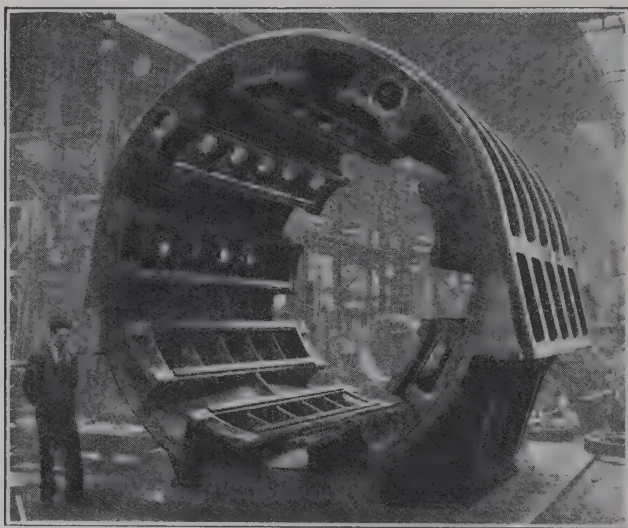
G.E.C.

Power Plant & Control Gear

for

HAMS HALL GENERATING STATION

Birmingham



The plant and apparatus which the General Electric Co., Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway, London, have in course of erection for the New Hams Hall Electricity Station, Birmingham, comprises some of the largest generating and control units built in this country. The above illustration shows the Stator Shell of one of the 50,000 H.P. turbo-alternators in the G.E.C. Witton, Engineering Works, Birmingham. This casting which weighs 25 tons was produced in the works foundry.

The complete Contract entrusted to the G.E.C., includes:—

- 2 — 50,000 H.P. TURBO-ALTERNATORS.
 - 2 — 2,500 H.P. TURBO SETS FOR AUXILIARY SUPPLY.
 - 11,000 volt. ELECTRICALLY OPERATED CUBICLE SWITCHBOARD.
 - 16 — PANEL DIRECT CURRENT SWITCHBOARD
 - 3 — 1,800 k.v.a. TRANSFORMERS.
- and a large quantity of smaller apparatus.

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LTD.,

Head Office : Magnet House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.
Engineering : WITTON WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.
Works : FRASER & CHALMERS, Engineering Works, Erith, Kent.

Branches throughout Great Britain and in all the principal markets of the world.

THE ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKING.

THE development of the Hams Hall Power Station has focussed attention upon the vast strides the Electric Supply Department has made in recent years. Some idea of the immensity of the project may be gleaned from the fact that two ferro-concrete cooling towers, which form a distinctive feature of the station, will, when complete, each be capable of cooling the circulating water for a 30,000 kilowatt turbine and will be the largest ever constructed. The first section of the station which is at present under construction will have, when complete, a capacity of 60,000 kilowatts, and its cost is expected to approximate £1,500,000. When the Hams Hall site has been fully developed its equipment will comprise four such stations with a producing capacity of 250,000 kilowatts.

By way of illustrating the magnitude of the present undertaking, it may be well briefly to review the events that have led up to the acquisition and subsequent development of the electricity undertaking by the Corporation.

The supply of electricity in Birmingham was first commenced by a small electric lighting company under a Provisional Order granted in 1882, and what now must be termed a miniature generating station was equipped by this company in the neighbourhood of Paradise Street to supply current to the Town Hall and adjacent buildings.

Owing, however, to the non-fulfilment of certain obligations by the company the Provisional Order was cancelled by the Board of Trade, and a new Order was obtained by the Birmingham Electric Supply Co., Ltd., who constructed and equipped a generating station in Dale End, where are now situated the headquarters of the City of Birmingham Electric Supply Department, the undertaking being purchased by the Corporation in 1900.

The decision of the City authorities to acquire and electrify the tramway system, and to cope with the growing demand for electricity for all purposes, led to a large generating station being established in Summer Lane in 1906. When the City boundaries were extended in 1911 the generating stations of the Aston Manor Borough Council and the Handsworth Urban District Council were acquired, both of which have since been converted into sub-stations.

Area of Supply over 220 Square Miles.

The Electric Supply Department expanded rapidly, and in 1914 the City Electrical Engineer prepared plans for the erection of a new generating station at Nechells, with railway, and canal facilities, and with an ample supply of water available. Owing to war conditions, construction was deferred, but the demand for electric power in the production of munitions became so great that the construction and equipment of a temporary station was expeditiously carried out with the approval and support of the Government.

In 1918 work was resumed on the permanent generating station, and it was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1923. In its Prince's Generating Station, Nechells, the City of Birmingham undoubtedly possesses one of the finest and most efficient stations in this country.



PRINCE'S GENERATING STATION, NECHELLS

The department now supplies current to areas of the Rural District Councils of Meriden and Solihull, thus increasing the area of supply from 68 to 224 square miles. The Nechells Station will soon be working at its full capacity, and the erection of the new super-generating station at Hams Hall, adjacent to the North Warwickshire coalfield, will materially increase the Department's already extensive resources. The consumption of coal at the generating stations in 1928 approached 390,000 tons, and the daily output in the winter months exceeded one and a-half million units.

Favourable Tariffs.

The favourable tariff for electrical energy offered by the department has been of great assistance to local manufacturers, who have not been slow to take advantage of the facilities offered. During the year ended March 31st, 1928, the horse-power of consumers' motors and power plant added to the mains totalled 30,100. These striking figures are convincing testimony of the ever-increasing demand of Birmingham's industries for an adequate electricity supply.

The department offers manufacturers motors from one-half to fifty horse-power on hire and maintenance terms at annual rentals from £3 5s. upwards, and under this scheme there are now no fewer than 2,220 motors, totalling 13,912 horse-power, installed on consumers' premises. For the large scale manufacturer the department supplies current at high pressure taken to transformers fixed in a small lock-up chamber on the consumers' works, and there reduced to the voltage required for power and lighting purposes.

The shopkeeper is catered for as well as the power consumer, and a large number of shop lighting installations may be seen in the City, the number increasing as tradespeople realize the advantage of illumination based on sound scientific principles.

To enable them to reap the full advantage of their occupancy of highly-rated premises, they are offered a special low rate for current supplied to light shop windows after the normal closing hour—for shopkeepers an invaluable form of advertising, and for the public a gain in the enhanced lighting of the streets. Illuminated signs are also encouraged by a special tariff. The electric lighting of the Broad Street corner by means of the half-watt lamps is an excellent example of Birmingham's street lighting.

Domestic Lighting, Cooking and Heating.

It has been the policy of the City Council, as well as the private builder, for some time past to install electric lighting in all new property, and in some houses heating and cooking circuits are also installed. To encourage the use of electricity for cooking purposes, the Department supplies electric cookers on hire at rentals of 10s., 6s., and 3s. per quarter respectively. An electric kettle is included in the hire, and the Department is prepared to carry out 30 feet of wiring to the cooker point without charge. This has led to large extension of the electricity mains during the year ended March 31st, 1928, the new mains laid totalling 99 miles. The total expenditure on the provision of mains incurred by the department up to the end of this period exceeds £2,882,000.

City Show Rooms.

In 1923 extensive showrooms were opened in Paradise Street—a central position near the Town Hall. Here demonstrations of electrical cooking are given weekly, and of other domestic apparatus from time to time, a lady demonstrator being in attendance.



ENGINE ROOM NECHELLS.

The success the department is achieving in their effort to educate the public in the many uses of electricity, more especially in the home, is shown in the following table of the last five years' development.

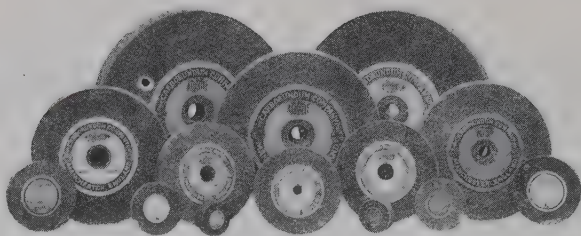
Year ended 31st March	Consumers connected.		Heating, Cooking, and Domestic Apparatus.	
	During year	Total at end of year	Kilowatts connected during year	Total kilowatts connected at end of year
1924	4,138	22,675	1,689	6,145
1925	5,521	28,196	2,867	9,012
1926	8,905	37,101	3,829	12,841
1927	10,307	47,408	4,271	17,112
1928	9,753	57,161	6,413	23,525

In May, 1927, the department opened a new showroom at Station Road, Solihull, and although supplies in this neighbourhood have only been furnished for about two years, over 1,200 consumers have been connected. It is also hoped to extend the use of electricity for agricultural purposes in this area.

Development.

The revenue, loan charges, working costs, and profits, also the large sums transferred from surplus to relief of rates, are given in the chapter on the City's finances.

Citizens have reason to be proud of their Electric Supply Department. The acquisition of the undertaking in the year 1900 has proved one of the wisest steps taken on their behalf, and it is now undoubtedly one of the most valuable of the City's assets.



Do You Know —

That we carry large stocks of
“CARBORUNDUM” and “ALOXITE”
Grinding Wheels, together with other
Abrasive Materials for all trades. Also,
that we have at your service, a staff of
Grinding Engineers who will be pleased
to help YOU with your Grinding
Problems

MAY WE SUGGEST—That you send your
next Order or Enquiry to us

RICHARD LLOYD & CO. LTD.

STEELHOUSE LANE

BIRMINGHAM

TELEGRAMS “COGS.”

TELEPHONE CENT. 7251.
(6 lines.)

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XVI.

THE CIVIC UNDERTAKINGS

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION
**TRAMCARS and
OMNIBUSES**

PROVIDE
EASY FACILITIES FOR REACHING
ALL PARTS OF THE CITY



SEE 25 MILES OF
BIRMINGHAM'S SUBURBS
on the
OUTER CIRCLE OMNIBUS
Service No. 11



Frequent Services

A. C. BAKER, A.M.I.E.E., M.Inst.T., *General Manager*

TRAMCARS

Over fifty years experience in the building of public service vehicles of all types is embodied in Brush Tramcars and Omnibus bodies

The City of Birmingham have favoured the Brush Company with orders for both Tramcars and Motor Bus bodies and that they have given every satisfaction is evidenced by the fact that they have placed repeat orders.



Enquiries for Rolling Stock of all types are invited and our wide experience is always available in assisting the preparation of designs etc.

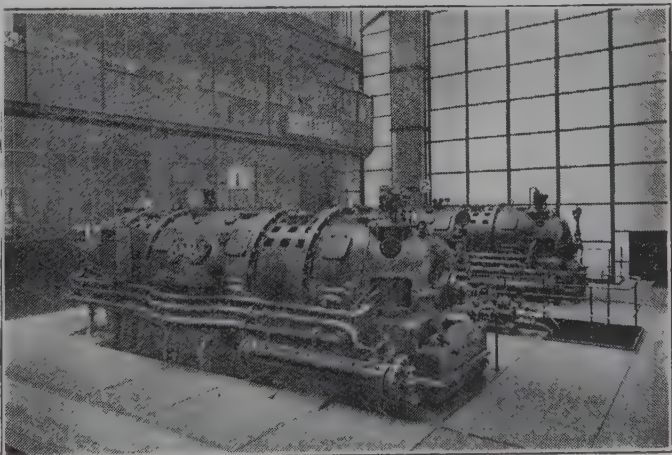
BRUSH-LJUNGSTRÖM TURBO-GENERATORS

FOR THE HIGHEST EFFICIENCY AND LOWEST MAINTENANCE COSTS.

High efficiency and low maintenance costs are characteristic of Brush-Ljungström plants.

They are installed in Generating stations both at home and abroad and are giving the greatest satisfaction.

FALCON WORKS,
LOUGH-BOROUGH



BIRMINGHAM

endorses



Reliability

by operating
over 200



double deck
Omnibuses



Top,  Buses lined
up for the football
crowd.

Centre, an  Bus
on the busy Alcester
Road and Chester
Road Service.

At foot, the latest
type of  single
decker :—



THE NEW 95 h.p.
“RELIANCE”
SALOON

seating 30-35
passengers. Repre-
senting the last word
in luxurious and
speedy omnibus
travel.

Apply for particulars of
full  range, com-
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Vehicles from 26-68
seaters, goods vehicles
from 2-6 tons.

**THE ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT
COMPANY, LIMITED,
5/8, CAROLINE ST., BIRMINGHAM.**

Phone: Central 8383-4.

Wire: “Vangastow, Phone, Birmingham.

Head Office and Works, Southall, Middlesex.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

BIRMINGHAM folk, in the early days of tramways, instead of allowing private companies to lay down tracks in the streets of the city, as in most towns in the country, constructed the tramways themselves, afterwards leasing them to companies upon terms which repaid the capital outlay within the periods of the leases.

In this way the Corporation have always had control of the streets. The foresight and wisdom of Birmingham's municipal representatives were realized by citizens when, on January 1st, 1907, the leases of the bulk of the lines expired and the lines came into the hands of the Corporation without a penny of cost. In other areas, local authorities allowed companies to construct and own the lines, and later had to buy out the companies' interests.

The tramway history of the City opens in 1873-5, when horse-drawn vehicles were first used on the Handsworth and Bristol Road routes, the former being soon afterwards converted to the cable system. Steam traction was introduced in 1884.

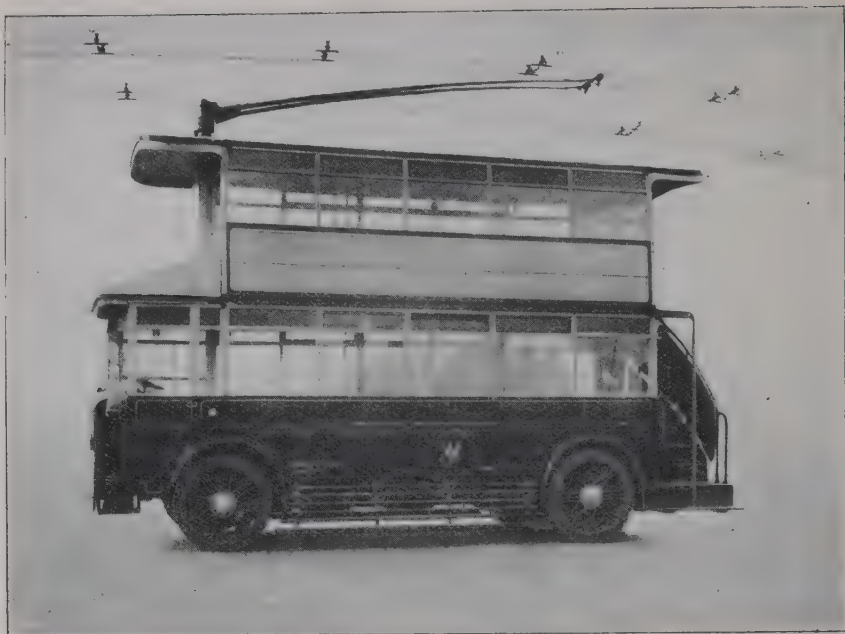
The Birmingham Corporation Act, 1903, empowered the Corporation to operate tramways themselves, and on January 4th, 1904, the Tramways Department commenced a service of cars between Steelhouse Lane and Aston Brook Street, which a little latter, by arrangement with the company operating the Aston lines, was extended to Aston Cross. At that time the department possessed twenty tramcars and one depôt, which had capacity for twenty-four cars.

Conversion of Old Horse and Steam Tramways.

During the years 1904-1907 the department was making arrangements for taking over the steam and horse-operated lines, the leases of which were due to fall in on December 31st, 1906. In acquiring depôt sites, erecting



CORPORATION OMNIBUS.



RAILLESS TROLLEY VEHICLE.

the dépôts, and other works incidental to the taking over of the tramways, in no case was it necessary, either then, or, indeed, at any time since in the history of the department, to call in the services of consulting engineers, all the work being carried out under the direction of the department's own staff. In addition to this work, other new routes were constructed and opened for traffic, viz. :

Lodge Road route, April 14th, 1906	Bolton Road route	} Jan. 1st, 1907
Ladywood route, Oct. 17th, 1906.	Cannon Hill „	
Dudley Road and Heath Street routes, July 1st, 1906.	Stoney Lane „	
Bordesley Green route, Nov. 26th, 1906.	Leopold Street „	
	Alum Rock „	

The statutory powers for these tramways, with the exception of the Dudley Road line, were obtained under the Corporation Act of 1905.

On December 31st, 1906, the Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Coventry Road, Stratford Road, Nechells, Newtown Row, and Saltley routes, which up till then had been run as steam or horse tramways, were taken over by the department and electric traction substituted the following morning—a remarkable achievement when it is remembered that to equip these routes no less than 200 cars had to be obtained, manned, and put into operation. The running to King's Heath involved arrangements with the King's Norton Council, and inter-running arrangements were made with the old company with regard to the Stratford Road and Coventry Road routes, so far as the portions in Yardley were concerned. In 1907 the department took over the Erdington Tramways for the Erdington Urban District Council, and the Perry Barr line for the Handsworth Urban District Council.

By this time the business of the department was attaining some magnitude, the accounts for the year ended March 31st, 1908, showing :

Receipts, £289,556; mileage, 9,960,587; passengers, 75,601,195—the equivalent of carrying the population (then estimated at 553,155) 136 times.

Handsworth Cable Tramway and Bristol Road Route Taken Over.

In 1911 the old cable tramway to Handsworth and the Bristol Road and Cotteridge lines were taken over. On January 1st, 1912, which immediately followed upon the extension of the City boundaries, when the Urban Districts of Handsworth, King's Norton, and Yardley, and the Borough of Aston Manor, were incorporated within the City, the old tramway company, which owned the operating rights in the three latter areas, was bought out. This added some twenty miles to the route mileage.

Extensions.

Since 1912, the tramways have steadily expanded, notable additions to the routes of the City being:

Stockland Green, July 12th, 1912.

Wheeler Street, Nov. 20th, 1912.

Oxhill Road, Dec. 20th, 1912.

Hagley Road, Sept. 5th, 1913.

Livery Street, June 10th, 1913.

Extension of Stratford Road route

from College Road to Hall Green,

May 31st, 1914.

Acock's Green, Feb. 2nd, 1916.

*Tyburn Road, May 13th, 1920.

*The Bristol Road Extension from
Selly Oak to Rednal, April 14th,
1924.

*Bordesley Green East, Nov. 4th,
1925.

*Short Heath, June 23rd, 1926.

*Pyke Hayes, Feb. 21st, 1927.

*Stratford Road, Hall Green to
City Boundary, April 2nd, 1928.

*Bordesley Green East (Further
extension to Stechford, Aug. 26th,
1928.)

* Sleeper Track Construction.



CORPORATION TRAMCAR.

Birmingham has one of the most up-to-date tramways on sleeper track construction in the country, laid upon a road which is probably one of the finest in Great Britain. The Bristol Road section is illustrated in the chapter on the doings of the Public Works Department.

Tramway Department Buys Out Motor Omnibus Company.

An outstanding feature has been the development of motor-omnibus services run in conjunction with the tramways, and the institution of a service of railless vehicles, or trolley omnibuses, in place of the tramway route to Nechells. The operation of motor omnibuses commenced in July, 1913, when ten vehicles were placed in service between Selly Oak and Rednal as an extension of the Bristol Road tramway.

Powers already existed under the 1903 Act to run motor-omnibuses in prolongation of tramway routes, but further scope in this direction was desirable, and general omnibus powers were obtained under the Birmingham Corporation Act, 1914. The department then bought out the only company operating omnibuses in the City area, and has so developed this business that to-day it has something like 260 motor omnibuses running in services on sixteen different routes, the great majority of which are top-covered double-deck type.

The trolley omnibus service to Nechells has the distinction of being the first in the country to be operated with top-covered double-deck vehicles, and was also the first tramway route in the country to be converted to the trolley omnibus system. It has attracted the attention of transport operators all over the world, many deputations having visited Birmingham to inspect this mode of transport.

1904-5 and 1927-8 Compared.

The statistics set out below show the work of the Tramways Department to-day as compared with its small beginnings in 1904 :

			Year ended March 31st, 1905.	Year ended March 31st, 1928.
Capital authorized	...	..	£50,000	£3,969,207
Capital borrowed	..	..	£50,000	£3,646,588
Capital expended	..	..	£50,000	£3,466,572
Amount of Capital paid off	..	..	£1,372	£1,607,113
Loans outstanding	..	..	£48,629	£2,039,474
Population served (approximately)	..	..	543,000	1,000,000
Revenue	..	Tramways	£19,103	£1,444,403
		Omnibuses	..	£466,335
		Railless	..	£30,403
Route mileage	..	Tramways	1 m. 66 yds.	78 m. 58 chs.
		Omnibuses	..	81 m. 45 1 yds.
		Railless	..	2 m. 35 chs.
Miles run	..	Tramways	216,235	20,135,751
		Omnibuses	..	6,936,554
		Railless	..	428,503
Passengers carried	..	Tramways	4,709,798	254,125,984
		Omnibuses	..	62,353,311
		Railless	..	6,338,849

The Tramway and Omnibus Department is a large business undertaking, and since its establishment has contributed a total of £624,077 to the rate funds.

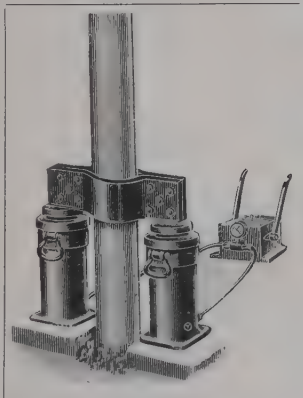
War Time Troubles.

During the Great War difficulty arose in maintaining the services owing to the large percentage of employees that entered His Majesty's forces, and it became necessary to engage women conductors, over a thousand being constantly employed. Altogether 3,000 had to be trained in these duties. Owing to the severe conditions in Birmingham they were not employed as drivers, the services of auxiliary motor-men from all classes, including doctors, lawyers, clergymen, and others, helping over the rush periods of the day. This was the first tramway undertaking to utilize this form of assistance. The department has a pay roll of 5,800 workers.

Outside Running.

Birmingham operates the tramways in West Bromwich for the West Bromwich Corporation, and also part of a company's system between Great Bridge and Dudley, and between Smethwick and Dudley, via Oldbury, 15½ miles of route in all.

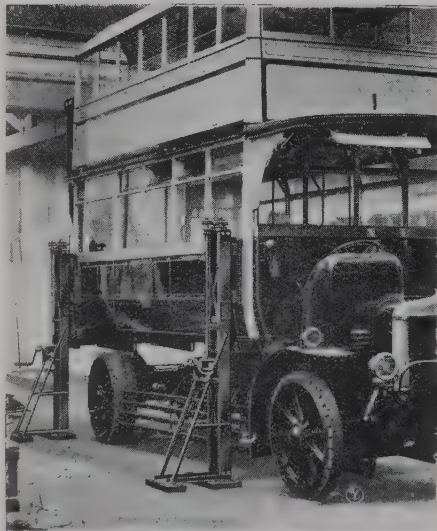
WHEN CHANGING OVER FROM TRAMS TO OMNIBUSES—



Tramway Standards are expeditiously removed by Youngs' Twin Hydraulic Jacks, with detached pump and pole clips.

YOUNGS RYLAND STREET WORKS BIRMINGHAM

Telegrams: "Oldens," Birmingham
Phone: 2301 Edgbaston



YOUNGS' PATENT BUS ELEVATORS—
Bus bodies are lifted safely, and remain supported firmly and rigidly after the chassis have been withdrawn. Felt pads prevent damage to painted surfaces of bus.

MAKERS OF ALL KINDS OF LIFTING TACKLE AND TOOLS FOR TRAMWAY, BUS, GAS AND WATER UNDERTAKINGS—CONTRACTORS TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, Etc.

WRITE FOR BOOKLET No. 2.



BIRMINGHAM

Corporation Markets

SMITHFIELD WHOLESALE FRUIT & VEGETABLE
MARKET.

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MONTAGUE STREET CATTLE & PIG MARKET.

MARKET HALL.

ST. MARTIN'S RETAIL MEAT MARKET.

BULL RING OPEN MARKET.

GOSTA GREEN OPEN MARKET.

Total area of the Markets—approximately 9 acres.
Population served—over 2,000,000, covering a
radius of 40 miles.

DEAL WITH THE BIRMINGHAM MARKETS, ONE
OF THE LARGEST AND BEST DISTRIBUTING
CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY.

Offices :—
Moat Lane,
Birmingham.

H. W. WATERS,
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MARKETS.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XVII.

THE CIVIC UNDERTAKINGS

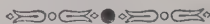
THE CITY MARKETS



TELEPHONE 685.

REGD. TRADE MARK.

FINE JOINERY FOR ALL TRADES



ASK FOR OUR NEW SCHEDULE OF
PRICES. PER FOOT CUBE AND SUPER.

For better Cleaning
Gry-moff
GETS THE GRIME OFF

The Great Soap Saver

For general cleaning, scouring
and polishing "Gry-moff" is
the best, cheapest and most
economical aid yet on the market.

Antiseptic and Disinfectant.

**THE GRI-MOFF
CO. LTD.**
GREAT BRIDGE,
BIRMINGHAM.

Sold in bulk
in kegs
and
sprinkler
containers.

Used
extensively
by all
leading
establish-
ments.

G.A.S.

CITY MARKETS.

A CHARTER of Marketing Rights was granted to one Peter FitzWilliam, the Sewer of Dudesley, by Henry II. in the year 1166, so that, although Birmingham's importance as a City is of comparatively recent date, it has been a marketing town for the last 760 years. Many charters have been granted since then, and many claims have been contested by the heirs of the Sewer of Dudesley for the possession of these important rights.

A change in the control of the Marketing Rights took place in 1806, when the Town Governors, or, as they were then called, "The Commissioners of the Birmingham Street Act," contracted for the market tolls. Later (in 1824) the Commissioners purchased outright from the then Lord of the Manor, Mr. Christopher Musgrave, the marketing rights and tolls for the sum of £12,500, and these they controlled until 1851, when, by the Birmingham Improvement Act, the marketing rights and all the powers appertaining to them, together with rights of the borough, were transferred to the Town Council, in whom they are now vested. The markets have been greatly extended and improved from time to time, and owing to their close proximity to a number of small towns, serve as a distributing centre for a large and increasing community.



THE MARKET HALL.

Wholesale and Retail Markets.

The Birmingham markets rank amongst the first in the country, and are six in number:

MARKET HALL.—This handsome and spacious building of Bath stone, situated in the Bull Ring, was opened in 1835, and has an area of 4,314 square yards. The hall is divided into four main avenues, being connected up by smaller avenues at right angles. The whole of one of the side main avenues is occupied by retail fishmongers, and the centre avenue is confined to florists, seedsmen, fruiterers and confectioners. The remaining two avenues are let to tenants whose business is of a somewhat varied character, and in these avenues can be purchased toys, domestic livestock, music, and fancy goods of all kinds. There is also a farmers' butter market held each Thursday in one of the side avenues, but the attendance of sellers is now very small, and the business done almost negligible.

WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.—The wholesale fish trade is confined to this market at the corner of Bell Street, facing the Bull Ring. Prior to its erection in 1869 the salesmen conducted their business in the open in Dale End, with poor facilities and lack of proper accommodation. Owing to increasing trade the Town Council purchased adjoining properties in 1878 and 1882, and some years later carried out considerable extensions, and the total area is now 1,894 square yards. There are cold stores in the basement, with a freezing capacity of 37,048 cubic feet, and an ice-making plant with a capacity of thirty-five tons a day, both let on lease.

CATTLE AND PIG MARKET.—This occupies an area of 8,461 square yards, is situated in Montague Street, and is close to the railway sidings. It is a well-equipped building, affording ample facilities for the sale of livestock, but for some years past the business in this market has steadily decreased, and since 1919 no animals except pigs have been exposed for sale.

WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET.—At one time this section of marketing was held in the open, opposite the Market Hall, in Worcester Street, Spiceal Street, and in the vaults under the Market Hall. With the growth of the town and the need for better conditions it was decided to erect a covered market, and the Smithfield Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, was the result. This was opened in 1883, and in 1892 and 1903 was considerably extended. Smithfield Market has an area of approximately 14,560 square yards, all under cover. A distinct improvement has recently been effected by the erection of fifteen additional offices on the Jamaica Row side, for the use of salesmen in the Market. These have supplied a long felt want, and are much appreciated by the "trade." The business of the market is divided into two sections, one being set aside for wholesale merchants, whilst the other is for market gardeners who bring in their own produce for sale. In this latter section the "Rag Fair" is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and is a popular marketing feature.

ST. MARTIN'S MARKETS.—Opposite the Smithfield Fruit and Vegetable Market in Jamaica Row is the old St. Martin's Market, having an area of about 560 square yards. It was erected about 1851 to be used as a wholesale meat market, and was used for this purpose until 1897, when the wholesale trade was transferred to the new City Meat Market. A portion of the premises still serves as a small retail market, which is held on Saturdays.

CITY MEAT MARKET AND ABATTOIRS.—These are the most commodious and remarkable of the market buildings, and are situated in Bradford Street. The site was purchased by the Council in 1891, and has an area of 12,243 square yards. At that time about 650 square yards were held in reserve for future extension, but the whole of the site has now been built upon.

The various blocks are grouped as follows :

1. Official block.
2. Twenty slaughterhouses for the use of the wholesale tenants, with lairage above.
3. Large hall for the sale of meat, both English and frozen, by wholesale.
4. Basement in which are the engine room, cold stores, and chill rooms.
5. Public slaughterhall for beasts, sheep, and calves, with lairs over, and also public slaughterhall for pigs.
6. Small office and building used for gut cleaning, tripe dressing, etc.

The hall of the market in which the sales are conducted is 365 feet long and 90 feet wide, and there are over seventy salesmen's stalls, while a complete system of overhead travelling rails for carrying meat to any part of the market or basement is a prominent feature. The basement, with its cold stores and chill rooms, is connected with the sales hall by three hydraulic lifts situated in the centre of the hall.

The cold stores have a capacity of 130,000 cubic feet for freezing and 70,000 cubic feet for chilling, and accommodation for 25,000 carcasses of mutton and 300 sides of beef, and are leased to a refrigerating company. On the south of the market is the public slaughterhall.

Growth of City's Meat Market.

The steady growth of the market may be gathered from the increase in the number of animals slaughtered there within recent years, viz. :

Year ending 31st March, 1921	..	..	..	258,222
„ „ „ „ 1924	..	..	..	279,545
„ „ „ „ 1925	..	..	..	332,243
„ „ „ „ 1926	..	..	..	331,103
„ „ „ „ 1927	..	..	..	392,387
„ „ „ „ 1928	..	..	..	463,366



WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET.

The oldest market in the City is the Bull Ring Market, which is held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for the sale of poultry, rabbits, eggs, flowers, and shrubs. This market is held in the thoroughfare of that name, and occupies about 765 square yards.

The markets and market properties of the Corporation cover an area of nine acres, and the receipts for the first complete year (1852) amounted to £6,753, and for the year ended March, 1928, £90,242.

The Veterinary Department.

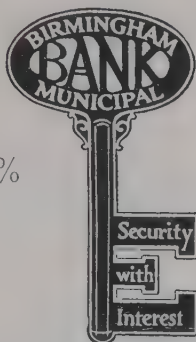
The duties of the Veterinary Department, with a veterinary surgeon superintendent at its head, are of such character that, for efficient administration, they are divided into three sections, each being controlled by the responsible committee concerned.

One section consists of work arising under Orders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries relating to contagious diseases of animals, including inspection of private slaughterhouses and inspection of meat and food other than those dealt with under the Food and Drugs Acts. The superintendent is Chief Veterinary Inspector for the City under the Diseases of Animals Acts, who is also the responsible officer of the Council in connection with those portions of the Protection of Animals Act, 1911, relating to knackers' yards and Public Health Meat Regulations, and bye-laws made thereunder. This section is under the Markets and Fairs Committee.

Another section relates to work in connection with the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Orders in the milk-producing centres around the City area, and the eradication of tuberculosis from dairy herds. These duties are controlled by the Public Health Committee.

The third section is the control of the Corporation stud, including the purchase of new and the disposal of old horses, the buying of provender, shoeing material, etc., the superintendence of shoeing smiths, granary and stable men, and hiring of horses to various committees. This work is carried out under the Salvage and Stables Committee.

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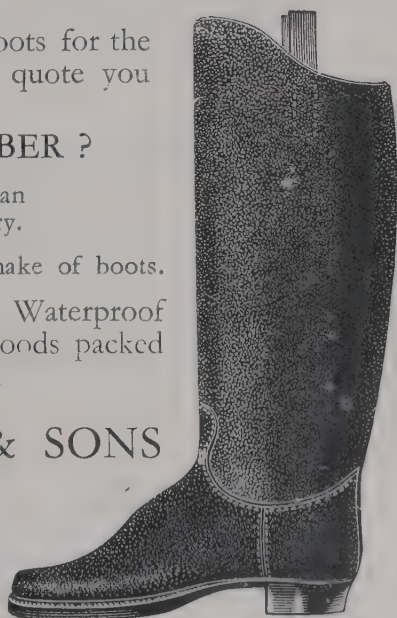
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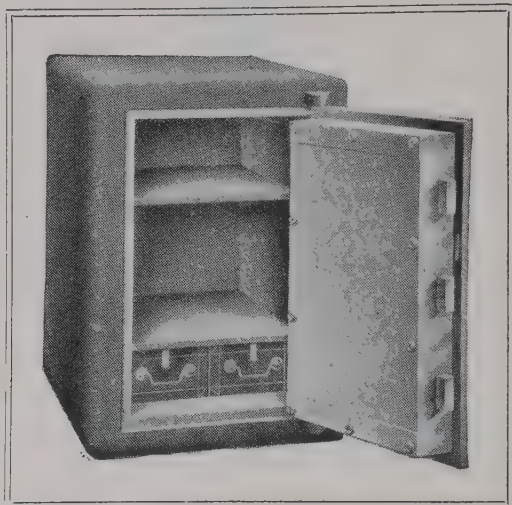
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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HANDBOOK

1928-1929.

SECTION XVIII.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

THE MUNICIPAL BANK

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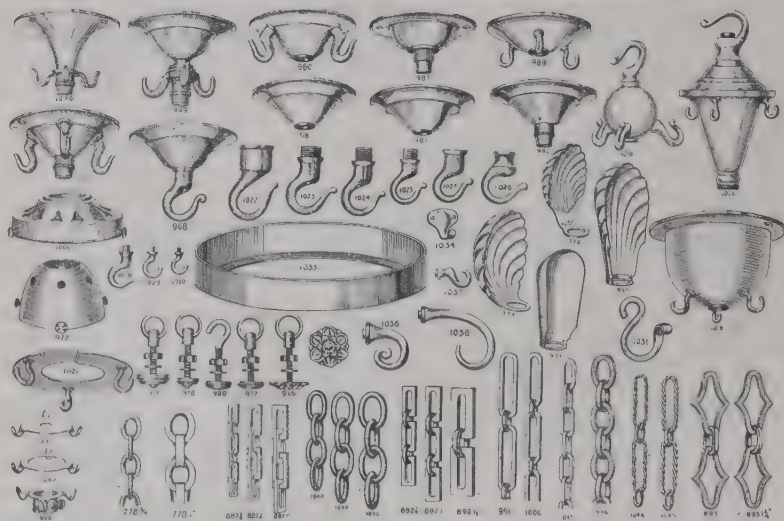
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THE MUNICIPAL BANK.

BIRMINGHAM'S great experiment—the first Municipal Savings Bank—arose out of a desire during the war period for an organization which would accommodate the particular requirements of the working man in saving small amounts, as explained by the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P. (who was Lord Mayor at the time of the inauguration of the Bank, and chief sponsor of the movement) when opening the new head office.

The National War Savings Certificate Scheme only partly met the need, and it was apparent that to meet the financial stringency that would inevitably succeed the cessation of hostilities, the worker, then enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity, needed to accumulate a reserve.

Legislative sanction and statutory authority were eventually sought to enable local authorities having a population of over 50,000 to establish Municipal Savings Banks. The prime object of the banks was to be the



HEAD OFFICE, MUNICIPAL BANK.

accumulation of funds that would be available for investments in securities issued for war purposes, and their sphere of usefulness ended, were to expire conveniently when the securities in which the funds were invested reached maturity.

The Hopes Birmingham Entertained.

The larger joint stock banks opposed the proposal so vigorously that the Bill was withdrawn, and the hopes Birmingham entertained for the establishment of a Savings Bank fell to zero. Undismayed, Mr. Chamberlain interviewed representatives of the banks which had so successfully opposed his policy, and opened fresh negotiations with the Local Government Board and the Treasury. The outcome was that a new Bill was introduced incorporating arrangements agreed to by the joint stock banks. Where the original Bill sought to enable towns of 50,000 inhabitants to establish such a bank, the new Bill increased that limit to a quarter of a million, and a limit was imposed as to the maximum deposit to be accumulated; restrictions were introduced which placed the control of the investment of funds in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners and the earning capacity of invested funds by the Treasury. Withdrawals on demand were not to exceed one pound, and the bank was to cease to exist three months after the termination of the war.

The new Bill received the Royal Assent in August, 1916. The successful termination of the City's efforts was due chiefly to the untiring energy and enthusiasm of the Lord Mayor (Mr. Chamberlain), without whose help the scheme would never have materialized.

The opening of the bank in September, 1916, coincided with a propaganda campaign throughout the City to attract the interest of the investors for whom the bank was primarily established. The Lord Mayor, the City Council, and many public-spirited enthusiasts addressed over one thousand meetings in all parts of the City for the purpose of advertising the advantages of the bank and encouraging the workers to enjoy the opportunities offered while wages were high. The success of the scheme was immediate, although those early investments appear puny in comparison with recent figures.

A Coupon Method of Saving.

The coupon method of saving was inaugurated, supplies were distributed to joint stock banks throughout the City, and when an employer presented the usual cheque for wages, he stated what amount was to be paid in coupons. The worker had, meanwhile, indicated the sum to be subtracted from his wages, and was given gummed coupons representing that amount. When the card, to which the coupons were attached, was complete the amount thus represented was entered in a pass book and the depositor was registered and a new coupon card issued for future use.

Up to this stage, the coupons were all of one denomination, but presently requests were received for coupons representing higher values than one shilling, and designs were prepared and coupons printed of the value of five shillings and later for one pound, half a crown, and sixpence.

Head Office Accommodation.

The Head Office accommodation was at this time totally inadequate for the administration of this rapidly-growing establishment, but eventually it was found possible to relieve the pressure at Head Office by forming

branches in certain large works in the City, and arrangements were made for depositors also to withdraw money from these branches. The amount to be withdrawn without notice was limited to one pound, and it was possible, therefore, to forecast fairly accurately the cash requirements of each branch.

Such was the Birmingham Corporation Savings Bank, which, in accordance with the statutory requirement imposed upon it, came to an end three months after the end of the war. During the short period of its existence—that is, from September 29th, 1916, until October 31st, 1919—£603,319 5s. 8d. had been deposited, £295,708 19s. 1d. withdrawn, and 24,411 depositors enrolled. The venture had already justified its existence, and it was not likely that so promising an institution would thus end its sphere of usefulness.

The New Bank.

The Corporation accordingly obtained powers by means of a private Bill to establish a Municipal Savings Bank, freed from certain of the restrictions that had limited the scope of its development under the old scheme. The Bill embodying these powers received the Royal Assent in 1919, and the Birmingham Corporation Savings Bank was supplanted by the Birmingham Municipal Bank.

Parliamentary formalities were completed on August 28th, 1919, and thanks to preparations made by the City Council in anticipation of a favourable conclusion to their efforts, on September 1st the bank was launched on its new voyage, equipped with a Head Office and seventeen branches. The necessary action was taken to effect the transference of accounts from the temporary bank to the Birmingham Municipal Bank, and of the 24,411 accounts remaining open in the old bank, no fewer than 22,592 were voluntarily transferred to the new.

The new bank established a Housing Department empowered to advance money for housing purposes. The bank has advanced to December 31, 1928, no less than £2,858,916 to house purchasers, and of this sum £976,324 has been advanced in respect of municipal houses on terms which are detailed in the section on the City Estates.

The Head Office of the bank was meanwhile extending, and the matter of securing less restricted accommodation became an urgent necessity. In 1925 the Corporation secured premises in Edmund Street, which enabled the bank to move into its own self-contained offices. The first permanent branch was opened at Sparkbrook in 1921, and there are now 48 branches within the City and others are shortly to be opened. Of these premises 40 are owned by the Bank, the entire purchase price having been defrayed out of the funds of the Bank, without any financial assistance whatever from the rates. The Housing Department showed remarkable progress, the number of mortgages in operation increased from 148 in 1920, to 5,965 in 1928, the total number of Mortgages arranged to December 31, 1928 was 8,469.

In order to provide adequate accommodation for the House Purchase Department, the business of this section of the bank's activities was in 1927 transferred to new offices at 44, Easy Row.

In every branch development has been sustained, and the bank's progress may be gauged from the following table of the transactions in the Savings Bank and House Purchase Departments :



A BRANCH OFFICE, MUNICIPAL BANK.

	Transactions.	
	Savings Bank	House Purchase
Seven months ended March 31st, 1920..	163,787	152
Year ended March 31st, 1921	385,466	6,368
" " " " 1922	442,383	12,174
" " " " 1923	577,717	13,356
" " " " 1924	822,680	15,803
" " " " 1925	1,069,045	23,885
" " " " 1926	1,270,811	36,770
" " " " 1927	1,364,061	52,345
" " " " 1928	1,541,591	65,257

The number of open accounts at the end of each financial year since the inception of the bank shown below, and the deposits standing to the credit of depositors, demonstrate the rapid strides the bank has made :

	Open Accounts	Balances
Seven months ended March 31st, 1920..	40,130	746,984
Year ended March 31st, 1921	62,119	1,405,978
" " " " 1922	76,230	1,869,596
" " " " 1923	100,245	2,883,942
" " " " 1924	133,420	4,243,541
" " " " 1925	166,894	5,611,532
" " " " 1926	199,605	6,799,511
" " " " 1927	225,760	7,800,221
" " " " 1928	254,433	9,069,841

At the end of December, 1928, there were 268,091 open accounts, and the balances stood at £9,625,294.

The balance sheet at the end of March, 1928, shows cash in hand at Head Office, Branches and Joint Stock Banks, £856,979 12s. 9d. and cash with Corporation at call £6,477,684 15s. 9d. The Reserve Fund at this date was £122,842 0s. 0d.

Savings Simplified.

Since their introduction five years ago, the Home Safe has become increasingly popular. Over 34,000 of these small steel Birmingham-made receptacles are now in the homes of depositors, and no less than £300,000 has already been saved by this method.

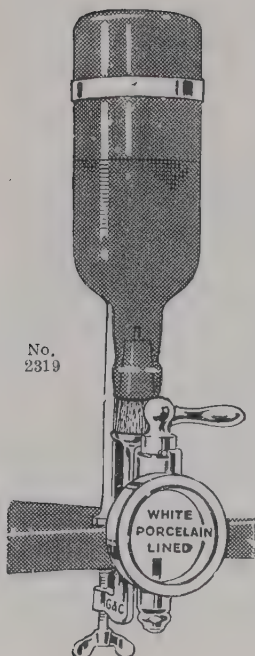
T.R.H. The Prince of Wales and The Duke of York, showed their keen interest in the "home safe" when they visited the Municipal Bank stand at the British Industries Fair in 1927.

Utility Services.

Facilities have been made to extend the utility services of the bank, and arrangements for the payment of water charges and gas and electricity accounts put into operation. Fees for the hire of dustbins from the Salvage Department are also payable at any office of the bank. Technical formalities preclude the possibility of dealing with rates in the same way, but this matter is exercising the attention of the Bank and Finance Committees at the present time, and hopes are entertained that the difficulties in the way will be surmounted. These arrangements, while of great convenience to the depositors, are, in addition, the means of effecting economies in the administration of the services concerned.

Last year 99,386 Municipal Accounts were dealt with at the bank counters, the amount collected being £151,942. In addition to the foregoing the bank is empowered to make advances for the purchase of live stock, fruit trees, seeds, fertilizers, and implements under the Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919, and has dealt with the payment of interest in connection with local housing bonds.

The popularity of the Birmingham Municipal Bank is probably due to the security enjoyed by the depositor and the generous rate of interest payable, while skilful advertisement and administration have also undoubtedly contributed to the results achieved. It has not been able to steer its course by reference to precedent, and citizens interested in a more comprehensive story of its beginnings and extraordinary popularity and prosperity should get from their bookseller or from any branch of the Bank a book written by the General Manager of the Bank, "Britain's First Municipal Savings Bank" (Blackfriars Press, 7s. 6d. and 1s. 6d.).



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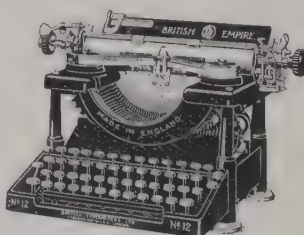
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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SECTION XIX.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF VISITORS

Other Points of Interest in Birmingham

The British Industries Fair

Education Facilities

Hotel and Boarding-house Accommodation

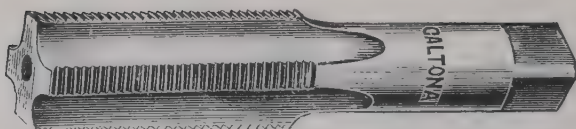
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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN BIRMINGHAM.

The Cathedral.

THE Cathedral of Birmingham (St. Philip's Church), stands between Snow Hill and New Street railway stations, was built about two hundred years ago, and is a daughter church of St. Martin's. The Cathedral is built in the Palladian style, and its setting among well-kept gardens gives the building an air of distinction that more famous cathedrals frequently lack. There are some very fine stained glass windows designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, a distinguished member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and a native of Birmingham, which attracts the interest of many visitors to the City. Colmore Row, Temple Row and Temple Row West, which adjoin the Cathedral Gardens on two sides, form with their adjoining thoroughfares, the professional quarter of Birmingham. The Birmingham Blue Coat School, founded 1722, which has recently been acquired by the Corporation, the Cathedral Rectory, and the Bank of England are on the third side of the gardens.

The Arcades and Shopping Centre.

The Great Western Arcade is opposite the entrance to Snow Hill Station, and its fine avenue of shops connects Colmore Row with the busy shopping centre of Corporation Street. This arcade runs parallel with Bull Street, with its large shops and departmental stores, with which it



THE GOLDEN LION, CANNON HILL PARK.

is connected by the Windsor Arcade. The City Arcades are bounded by New Street, High Street and Union Street, and the Piccadilly Arcade is a new shopping area between New Street and Stephenson Street. New Street runs from High Street to Victoria Square, and is probably the finest shopping thoroughfare in the City. Paradise Street, which is the continuation of New Street, includes among its attractions the show rooms of the City of Birmingham Gas and Electric Supply Departments. A little further on is Broad Street, which, on the fringe of the Civic Centre Site, is attracting to itself a reputation for shopping facilities; it is a fine wide thoroughfare, and is the main highway between the city and the residential areas of Harborne and Edgbaston.

St. Martin's Church.

The Parish Church of Birmingham was in existence in 1290, and contains the altar-tombs of several members of the de Bermingham family. In early days, Birmingham possessed a Priory, a Parish Church and two Gilds, but of its ancient buildings, few remain, and St. Martin's Church is practically the City's only architectural reminder of Birmingham's importance in medieval times. The older part of Birmingham lay beyond the Bull Ring and along the thoroughfares of Digbeth and Deritend, and the fine fourteenth-century Olde Crown House is the only building now standing which reflects to some degree the industrial importance of that area before the more pretentious buildings of later years transferred the seat of the town's activities to the high town. The Gild-house of St. John the Baptist, afterwards the Golden Lion Inn, was an old half-timbered house which formerly stood on the opposite side of Deritend. The building was taken down and exactly reconstructed in Cannon Hill Park some years ago, and is an interesting example of early timber frame architecture.

Victoria Square and the Civic Buildings.

Victoria Square may be said to be the bearings of the "hub of industrial England." It includes the Council House, Town Hall, the General Post Office and Inland Revenue buildings, as well as the offices of many large professional and commercial houses. The Town Hall, which is described in the appropriate chapter, occupies what is probably the finest site in the City. It is modelled on the Corinthian example of Jupiter Stator at Rome and is built of Anglesea marble. In his impressions of Birmingham, Mr. C. Lewis Hind wrote :—

"The Town Hall impresses. Indeed, I would almost travel to Birmingham to see again the rebirth of the work of the old architects, who knew the secrets of simplicity and proportion. Built in imitation of the Temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome, upon rising ground, the pile at once arrests the attention. The rough surface of the rusticated basement 22 feet high, evades the soot in parts, and offers the relief of light and shade. One passes the Council House a second time without looking at it. But I nearly lost my train by lingering before the solemn Town Hall."

The Council House.

The Council House was erected in 1874-1880, the rear portion, which formed the first Art Gallery buildings, being added between 1881 and 1888. The building which is built of Spinkwell, Wrexham, and Darley Dale stone in the Renaissance style, is in quadrilateral form with a quadrangle

in the centre ; it is surmounted by a dome. The principle front is towards Colmore Row, and measures 296 feet in length. The main entrance is under a lofty and deeply recessed arch, surmounted by a pediment containing allegorical sculpture. Under the arch is a figure subject in mosaic, by Salviati, and there are at each corner of the roof pediments containing sculptured groups emblematic of the arts and trades of the City. The Council Chamber occupies the corner of the building nearest the Town Hall, the public entrance to the strangers' gallery being through the gates in Congreve Street. The upper portion of the principal frontage consists of a magnificent suite of reception rooms, approached by a grand staircase, the balusters of which are composed of the various British marbles. On each side of the grand staircase are statues of the late Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. The building also contains offices for the various departments of municipal work, committee rooms, Lord Mayor's parlour and other apartments. The multiplication of Corporation departments necessitated the extension of the Council House, and for this purpose a handsome block of buildings was erected, having frontages to Edmund Street, Congreve Street, Great Charles Street, and Margaret Street.

Other Noteworthy Buildings.

This extension is connected with the older buildings by a bridge across Edmund Street, and accommodates four of the largest Corporation Departments as well as the Feeney Galleries of the Museum and Art Gallery. Opposite the Margaret Street front, of the Council House Extension, are the Central School of Arts and Crafts, the old Birmingham Library which was founded in 1779, and at the corner of Great Charles Street the fine new buildings of the Birmingham Stock Exchange.

At the rear of the Town Hall and opposite the entrance to the Museum and Art Gallery, is Chamberlain Square, with its fountain of white Portland stone and medallion portrait, commemorating the civic services of the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. The Reference Library is in Ratcliff Place, and the Birmingham and Midland Institute at the corner of Ratcliff Place and Paradise Street.

The Hall of Memory.

A short distance from Victoria Square, and occupying a conspicuous position on the site of the proposed Civic Centre, is the Hall of Memory, the foundation stone of which was laid by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1923. The building rises from a podium or platform on a base of Cornish granite and is built of Portland stone in the Roman Doric style. Massive cast bronze doors stand under the portico and lead to the inner portals, fashioned of polished bronze. Four bronze statues are placed on granite pedestals at the corners outside the building ; they are larger than life size and symbolize the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and Women's services.

The interior is planned in dignified and simple lines. As the purpose of the building is to perpetuate the memory of the fallen, whose names appear on the Roll of Honour, a shrine of Siena marble in the form of a sarcophagus occupies the centre of the marble floor. Upon the shrine rests a glass and bronze casket, which contains a beautifully illuminated Roll of Honour. Facing the main entrance, is a stained glass window showing the Cross surrounded by geometric ornamentation and a domed light of yellow and white illuminates the building. On the walls are three



THE HALL OF MEMORY.

has reliefs which show men leaving home to join the forces, a party in the firing line, and the third depicts men returning to their homes wounded and maimed after the War. The Hall of Memory gardens lead to a colonnade and it may be noted in passing, that the cost of the Hall of Memory was met by voluntary contributions and the scheme was almost entirely carried out by Birmingham men.

Aston Hall.

This fine Jacobean mansion, which is now in the possession of the City, and is used as a branch Museum and Art Gallery, was built between 1618 and 1635 by Sir Thomas Holte, a grandson of the Chief Justice of Wales, and at that time the chief representative of the ancient Holte family of Duddeston. The Hall contains over a hundred apartments, among which are the splendid entrance hall, the chapel, the great drawing room and the magnificent "Gallery of the Presence" which, with the exception of Hardwicke and Hatfield, is the finest in the country. The principal staircase is of massive oak, with richly carved newels and is "unsurpassed as an example of the early Elizabethan pattern." The fire-places in all the state apartments are also worthy of special notice, being of white and black marbles and alabaster, and almost monumental in character. The large park preserves many of the original features of the place and the pleasure in the front and the terrace on the western side of the Hall add to its attractions. During the Civil War, the Hall was held for the King and besieged by the Parliamentary forces, and a large cannon ball which damaged the main staircase is still preserved in the building.

Aston Parish Church.

A short distance from Aston Hall, is the Parish Church of Aston. The chancel and the Erdington Chapel are noteworthy for their rich carving, but the special interest of the church lies in its monumental remains, there being examples of the various styles from the fourteenth to the nine-



STRATFORD HOUSE, CAMP HILL.

Photograph by courtesy of the Birmingham Civic Society.

teenth centuries. There are few parish churches in which such a perfectly consecutive series of monuments is to be seen. The earlier monuments commemorate the Erdington family, while the Arden family, the ancestors of Shakespeare's mother, are also represented. The Elizabethan and Stuart tombs are chiefly those of the Holte family of Aston Hall.

The Victoria Courts.

The Victoria Courts in Corporation Street, which were erected between 1887 and 1891, are in the Renaissance style and are said to resemble in their principal features the French style of Francis I. The large public hall has an open timber roof and walls of cool grey stone, enriched with sculpture and lighted by five large windows which depict the principal events of Queen Victoria's connection with the City.

Stratford House.

Stratford House, Camp Hill, was built in 1601, just before the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The house has a well defined history, and while from the architectural or historical standpoint, its story is not spectacular, Stratford House is an interesting example of Elizabethan domestic architecture. It is one of the few buildings in Birmingham which survived the rapid changes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Birmingham Iron Exchange.

The Exchange in Stephenson Place, is a picturesque Gothic building and was erected in 1863 and 1865, being subsequently enlarged 1872 and 1878. In addition to the Exchange proper and a large assembly room, there are several suites of offices and chambers, with shops on the ground floor.

THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

IN 1915, the Board of Trade organized the first British Industries Fair in London. Three years before, the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce had been vigorously exploring the possibilities of holding in this country an exhibition to compete with the great continental trade fairs, such as those held at Leipzig, Lyons, Brussels, Prague, Paris and in the Netherlands. Birmingham then felt that British industries did not receive the recognition and publicity they merited, and it was decided that to encourage throughout the world an interest in the products of the British Empire, it was necessary to emulate the example of our continental competitors.

The war intervened, however, before the project was able to materialise, and between 1914 and 1918 Birmingham was too busy in meeting continental competition of a different character. Upon the cessation of hostilities, an arrangement was come to by the Board of Trade and the Birmingham authority (which is now the Chamber of Commerce), whereby what may be termed the heavier products of British industry, were to be exhibited at Castle Bromwich contemporaneously with exhibitions at London and Glasgow of British manufacturers which did not come into that category. The Glasgow Exhibition has now been discontinued, however.

The schedules of exhibits shown at the Birmingham section, include the following eleven groups : Brassfoundry, Hardware and Ironmongery, Metals, Construction, Building and Decoration, Power, Lighting, Heating,

Cooking and Ventilating, Engineering, Agriculture, Mining, Motor, Motor-Cycles and Cycles, Cycle Accessories and Perambulators, Guns, Saddlery and Harness, Brewing, Distilling and Catering Services.

The Fair is only open to exhibits made by British manufacturers and to British wholesale firms taking the whole output of a British factory, or holding the sole selling rights of patented or proprietary articles manufactured in the British Empire.

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, which is responsible for the organization of the Fair, takes every possible step to ensure its continued success and to attract a record number of buyers. Important trade associations, representing distributive and other trades are specially invited and entertained at the Fair, while each year the Lord Mayor of Birmingham invites the Lord Mayors, Mayors and other representatives of the great municipalities of the country.

The Chamber of Commerce has a special department permanently in being, through which it brings buyers and sellers into touch. During the period of the Fair, this work is intensified and there is in the Exhibition building a branch of the department, the sole purpose of which is to assist visitors to the utmost in carrying out the object of their mission with the greatest possible facility.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The University of Birmingham.

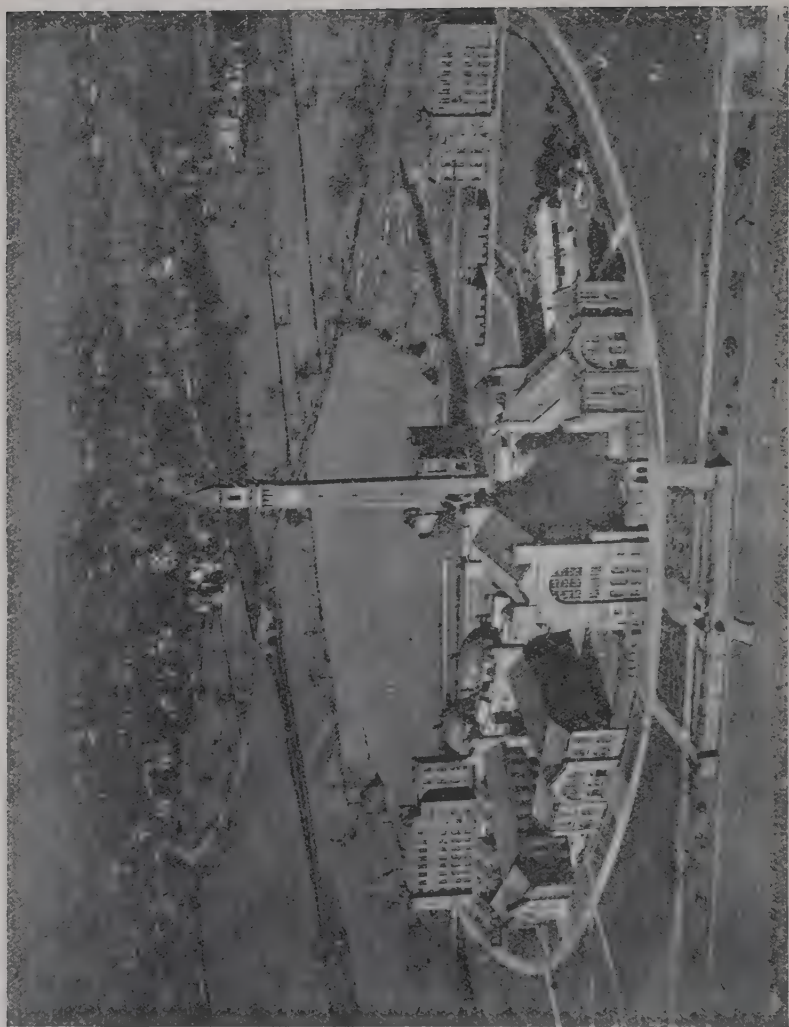
MASON University College, which was the immediate predecessor of the University of Birmingham, was founded by Josiah Mason, the Birmingham penmaker, and opened by Huxley, the famous scientist, in 1880. When the College was inaugurated, the tutorial staff comprised four professors and three lecturers and there were ninety-five students.

Through the efforts of the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., a Royal Charter was granted in 1900, founding the University of Birmingham and absorbing into it the Mason University College. In addition, Birmingham has to thank this great statesman for the inception of an endowment fund for the University, which ultimately reached £500,000.

At the time the Charter was granted, the annual grant from the Treasury amounted to £2,700 and this sum has now been increased to about £66,000. In addition, the Corporation made an annual grant of £15,000 and the City Council has recently promised to increase this amount to the equivalent of a penny rate, which in Birmingham is about £25,000.

The need for extensions to the accommodation became apparent soon after the incorporation, and Lord Calthorpe presented a site of about 50 acres for new University buildings at Edgbaston. This munificence has since been increased by further gifts from the Calthorpe family, until the present site occupies an area of over 100 acres. The first section of the Edgbaston buildings was erected on the site and the accompanying illustration indicates the plan adopted and the opportunities for further extension.

The Great Hall occupies the central position, and behind the Tower can be seen the Harding Library. On the extreme right is the Physics Block, and on the left the Chemistry Block. The Chemistry Department and the Harding Library have recently been connected by the Biology Block, where are to be found the Departments of Botany, Zoology and of Brewing and the Bio-Chemistry of Fermentation. The radial blocks are devoted



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, EDGBASTON.

to the Departments of Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering, Coal and Metal Mining, Metallurgy, Geology, and Commerce. There are separate buildings for the Oil Mining Department and the Power Station.

Further extensions are in contemplation and until the Edgbaston scheme is complete, the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law, with the teachers' training department, are accommodated in the old Mason College buildings.

There are at present five faculties at the University : arts, science, medicine, commerce and law. The Faculty of Law, which is the youngest, was inaugurated in 1928, and the Faculty of Commerce was the first of its kind in the country.

Two Halls of Residence are maintained by the University: Chancellor's Hall, Augustus Road, Edgbaston, with accommodation for 96 men students and University House, Edgbaston Park Road, with accommodation for 80 women students.

An impression of the great development of the University since its inception may be gleaned from the fact that the professors, lecturers and demonstrators number 275 and during the last session there were 1,557 students.

The University of Birmingham is a progressive institution of which the City may be justly proud. Its curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of a wide industrial area and the extensions in contemplation will still further enhance the University's sphere not only in the district in which it is situate, but throughout the whole country.

Upon application being made to the Secretary, arrangements can be made for an inspection of the University buildings at any time.

The Birmingham and Midland Institute.

The Birmingham and Midland Institute, at the corner of Ratcliff Place and Paradise Street, was founded in 1855 and extended by an extra wing in 1881. The Institute includes three departments, the General, the Educational and the School of Music ; it is the home of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, the Birmingham Chess Club and the Midland Institute Scientific Society. Throughout its existence, the Institute has played a conspicuous part in the educational life of the City, particularly in providing facilities for evening students. The Institute usually has about 2,000 students and its curriculum includes modern language and literature, history and classics, mathematics, science, commercial subjects, while its School of Music is one of the finest in the country and includes in its tutorial staff lecturers of national repute. The Institute also offers special facilities for students seeking external University degrees.

The Queen's College.

The Queen's College in Paradise Street was founded in 1828, incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1864 and was entirely rebuilt in 1904. By reason of their situation, the premises proved unsuitable for residential college life and the academic activities are now carried on principally at Queen's College Hall, Somerset Road, Edgbaston. The accommodation there includes chapel, hall, library, common room and apartments for the residential members. The curriculum provides ordination courses for graduates with special attention to the " craft " of the ministry, full preparation for holy orders, including the B.A. degree at the University, courses at the University for medical, law, engineering and other students and post-ordination lectures for clergy.

Further information may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Queen's College, Paradise Street.

The Saltley Diocesan Training College.

This College was founded in 1874 as a Training College for Masters in the Elementary Schools. The buildings, which accommodate about 136 students, were erected at a cost of over £17,000, and furnish all the education needed to render the students efficient in their subsequent careers.

The Handsworth Theological College.

This building was erected in 1889, at a cost of £40,000, to provide a theological education for candidates for the Wesleyan ministry. Accommodation is provided for about 70 students, with professors and tutors in the various necessary departments of theological study.

King Edward's High School for Boys, New Street.

The course of Instruction is framed with a view to the completion of School Education by the age of 19, and includes the English, Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, Italian and German Languages, and Literature, Arithmetic and Mathematics, Natural Science, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, History, Geography, Drawing, Singing and Physical Exercises. (With the consent of the Head Master, a pupil may remain in the School until the end of the second complete term after attaining his 19th birthday).

Candidates for the admission examination must be between the ages of 12 and 18 years. The subjects of the examination are Reading, Writing from Dictation, Arithmetic and the outlines of English Grammar, History and Geography. Candidates may also be examined, if they desire it, in Latin, Greek, French, German, Elementary Science and Elementary Mathematics, although these do not count in the award of Free Places. Valuable exhibitions and scholarships are awarded annually as a reward of merit, and particulars may be obtained from the Secretary.

King Edward's High School for Girls, New Street.

The course of instruction is framed with a view to the completion of School Education by the age of 19, and includes the English, Greek, Latin, French, and German Languages and Literature, Arithmetic and Mathematics, Natural Science, History, Geography, Drawing, Vocal Music, Domestic Economy, Cookery and Needlework. (With the consent of the Head Mistress, a pupil may remain in the School until the end of the second complete term, after attaining her 19th birthday).

Candidates for the admission examination must be between the ages of 12 and 18 years. The subjects of the admission examination are as follows: Reading, and Writing from Dictation, Arithmetic, the outlines of English Grammar, History and Geography. Candidates may also be examined, if they desire it, in Latin, French, Elementary Science and Elementary Mathematics. These subjects do not count in the award of free places.

Information as to the exhibitions and scholarships, may be obtained from the Secretary at the Schools.

Grammar Schools of the King Edward the Sixth Foundation.

The Foundation Grammar Schools for Boys are at Aston, Camp Hill and Five Ways.

The course of instruction is framed with a view to the completion of School Education by the age of 17, and includes Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, History, Geography, the English Language and Literature, Latin, French, German, Mathematics, Natural Science, Manual Work, Drawing, and Vocal Music.

Candidates for the admission examination must be between the ages of 11 and 13 years, calculated from 31st July in the School Year in which attendance commences. The subjects of the admission examination are as follows : Reading and Writing, Arithmetic, English, Elementary Geography, and English History.

The Grammar Schools for Girls are at Camp Hill and Handsworth.

The course of instruction is framed with a view to the completion of School Education by the age of 17, and includes Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, History, Geography, the English Language and Literature, French, Mathematics, Natural Science, Drawing, Vocal Music, Domestic Economy, Needlework, and Physical Exercises.

Candidates for the admission examination must be between the ages of 11 and 13 years, calculated from 31st July in the School Year in which attendance commences.

The subjects of the admission examination are as follows : Reading and Writing, Arithmetic, English, Elementary Geography, and English History, Nature Study or Elementary Domestic Science.

All enquiries for particulars as to the admission of pupils, foundation scholarships and free places, books, residence of pupils, school rules, withdrawals and exhibitions should be addressed to the Secretary, King Edward's School, New Street, Birmingham.

Secondary Schools.

In addition to the Grammar Schools of the King Edward VI. Foundation, there are in Birmingham thirteen Council Secondary Schools with a total accommodation for 5,296 pupils. These Schools with accommodation are as follows :—

<i>Schools for Boys.</i>	<i>Accommodation</i>
Council Central Secondary School, Suffolk Street	400
George Dixon Council Secondary School, City Road, Edgbaston.. .. .	340
King's Norton Council Secondary School, Northfield Road, King's Norton	500
Moseley Council Secondary School, Wake Green Road, Moseley	500
Handsworth Grammar School, Grove Lane, Handsworth ..	500
St. Philip's R.C. Grammar School, Hagley Road, Edgbaston	250
<i>Schools for Girls.</i>	<i>Accommodation.</i>
George Dixon Council Secondary School, City Road, Edgbaston.. .. .	250
King's Norton Council Secondary School, Selly Oak Road, King's Norton	500
Erdington Council Secondary School, Kingsbury Road, Erdington.. .. .	316
St. Paul's R.C. High School, Vernon Road, Edgbaston ..	240
<i>Schools for Boys and Girls.</i>	<i>Accommodation.</i>
Waverley Road Council Secondary School, Small Heath ..	500
Yardley Council Secondary School, Warwick Road, Tyseley	500
Saltley Council Secondary School, Belchers Lane, Saltley ..	500

In each case the school course leads to the School Certificate Examination and there is provision for pupils to continue their studies to the Higher School. Certification Examination Pupils are admitted to the Council Secondary School between the ages of ten and thirteen years ; all candidates for admission must pass the annual admission examination, which is held in March in each year, unless they are already in attendance at a recognized secondary school. Subject to the income limits and other conditions, free places are awarded on the results of the admission examination, to the extent of 25 per cent. of the pupils admitted in the preceding year, to children who have attended a public elementary school for two years immediately before entering the secondary school. School fees are remitted where the parents' or guardians' income is within the prescribed limits.

Students who desire to enter upon a course of study at the University of Birmingham, are eligible for consideration for the award of a free place, subject to the appropriate income limits, upon attaining a sufficiently high standard at one of the recognized Secondary Schools. Such awards are made after consideration of the results of the examination taken. Maintenance allowances may also be awarded, subject to satisfactory attendance, progress and conduct. In certain circumstances awards may be made in respect of students who have gained an open scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge, or other residential Universities.

Junior Day Technical (Engineering) School.

The curriculum of the Junior Day Technical School, Goldshill Road, Handsworth, has been designed to prepare boys for the occupation they propose to follow, while at the same time continuing their general education. The course of study extends over two years and includes English language and literature, industrial history, economic geography, practical mathematics, physics and chemistry (theoretical and practical), applied mechanics, mechanical drawing, practical woodwork and pattern-making, ironwork, physical exercises, games, etc. Arrangements as to free places and maintenance allowances are in operation.

Aston Commercial School.

The curriculum of the Aston Commercial School, Whitehead Road, Aston, is arranged to meet the needs of children intended for a commercial career. The course extends over two (or three) years and includes English language and literature, French (or Spanish), commercial arithmetic and accounts, commercial geography and economic history, theory and practice of commerce, bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, physical exercises and games, domestic training (for girls), science, mathematics and mechanical drawing (for boys). Arrangements as to free places and maintenance allowances are in operation.

Parents are invited to obtain further particulars in regard to the foregoing schools from the Chief Education Officer, Margaret Street, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

Full-time Day Courses.

Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics.

Full-time courses can be arranged from existing day classes for students desirous of sitting for various examinations, *e.g.*, those for the science degrees of London University, for the Institute of Chemistry, etc.

Metallurgy.

A full-time two years' course in Metallurgy is arranged to suit the needs of students intending to take up a metallurgical career in works or laboratories. Special attention is attached in the first year to training in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, whilst introductory courses in Engineering and Metallurgy are also taken. In the second year the time is mainly devoted to lectures and laboratory work in Metallurgy. A comprehensive course in Metallurgical Analysis is arranged, whilst in addition to lectures in the Metallurgy of the extraction and manufacture of metals, the subjects of Metallography, Physical Metallurgy (including heat treatment) Pyrometry and Fuel are taught, each in a special course of lectures, supported by laboratory work. A course of practical work enables a student to make castings, the composition and properties of which he can ascertain for himself in the laboratory.

Pharmacy.

Courses are arranged for students wishing to study any branch of Pharmaceutics. The Department contains a well-equipped Dispensary, Manufacturing and Testing Laboratory, Materia Medica Museum, Research Laboratory, and Biological Laboratory, and is officially recognized by the University of London for the purpose of training for the Intermediate and Final Examinations for the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy, and by the Pharmaceutical Society for its various examinations. The classes in Botany and Zoology, in the B. Pharm. Courses, are of the same standard as that required by the B.Sc. Intermediate and Final pass degree of London University.

Engineering (Civil, Mechanical and Electrical).

The full-time courses of instruction in Engineering extend over a period of three years, and are designed to cover such theoretical principles and practical applications as will fit a student for the higher branches of the engineering professions. The curriculum includes, Lectures, experimental work in the Engineering Laboratories, Drawing and Design, Workshop practice, and Field work in surveying. The technical training provided, will cover the requirements of the recognized examining bodies of the engineering profession, such as the Institutions of Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Automobile Engineers and Structural Engineers, the University of London, and the City and Guilds of London Institute. The first two years of the full-time day courses in Mechanical Engineering are recognized by the Board of Education and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for the award to successful students of the Senior Course National Diploma.

Breadmaking and Confectionery.

A two-year full-time day course, and a three-year evening course for both men and women have been arranged for young persons entering the breadmaking and confectionery trades. The full-time classes have been so arranged that at the end of the first year, students should qualify for the City and Guilds Intermediate Certificates, and at the end of the course for the Final Certificates, and for the "National" Diploma offered by the National Association of Master Bakers.

Part-time Day Courses.

Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics.

Part-time courses can be arranged from existing day classes for students desirous of sitting for various examinations, *e.g.*, those for the science degrees of London University, for the Institute of Chemistry, etc.



CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SUFFOLK STREET.

Pharmacy.

Courses are held for the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society as follows : Course B comprises classes held on Mondays and Thursdays (day and evening), and cover the syllabus in one session. Course C : Similar to Course B, except that the classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays. Course D : This course extends over three years, and was arranged at the request of the Birmingham Pharmaceutical Association to meet the requirements of apprentices who wish to study for the examination during their apprenticeship.

Applied Optics.

Classes are specially arranged for those interested in the manufacture and supply of spectacles and other aids to vision, and who wish to obtain the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, or that of the British Optical Association.

Classes in Metallurgy.

These classes are arranged to meet the needs of students who are engaged in local metallurgical industry, and who can make arrangements to be released from their duties for one or more half-days per week. The classes have the advantage of longer duration, both singly and collectively, than the evening classes, and practical work of a more thorough character can be arranged, particularly in connection with Physical Metallurgy, Pyrometry, and Metallurgical Analysis.

Courses in Mechanical, Electrical, and Automobile Body Engineering.

These courses of instruction are specially suited to the requirements of engineering apprentices and other employees of engineering firms. All students attending part-time day classes should also attend the approved evening classes. Students who complete a course of instruction, may enter for a National Certificate in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

Evening Courses.

Chemistry Department.

The evening classes in Chemistry are arranged to meet the needs of students desirous of becoming acquainted with the theoretical or technological branches of the subject and certain definite courses are prescribed for candidates for Matriculation, Inter B.Sc., Medical and Dental Examinations, B.Sc., and Institute of Chemistry Examinations, M.Sc., and Fellowship of the Institute of Chemistry, and for the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The classes in Quantitative Analysis are suitable for students training for Analytical Laboratories.

Special classes are held in a Paint and Varnish Technology, Gas Supply, Gas Engineering, and Engineering Chemistry.

Students who have already reached matriculation standard in Chemistry, and who have a suitable knowledge of Mathematics and Physics, are

recommended to enter for the Senior Chemistry Course as outlined below, in order to qualify for the College Certificate in Chemistry. The Chemistry Course for the Senior Certificate comprises attendance during a minimum of three years and in general a maximum of four years at the following classes :

Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Elementary Organic Chemistry, Practical Chemistry, comprising Quantitative Analysis and Elementary Organic Chemistry together with Elementary Mathematics, Physics and an approved Summer Course.

Arrangements have been made for National Certificate courses in (i) Engineering and (ii) Gas Supply, and there are two special and well equipped laboratories for Research work and for Physical and Electro-Chemistry, and a class in this subject will be held during the Summer Term.

Metallurgy Department.

The classes in Metallurgy are arranged for students who desire to take up the study of metallurgical science either in conjunction with the application of science to metallurgical industry, or as an aid in engineering practice. There are four classes dealing with the Metallurgy of Iron and Steel. Stage 1, is elementary and constitutes a general introduction to the subject. Stages 2 and 3 bring the student into more intimate touch with the more important processes in the manufacture of iron and steel, whilst the advanced class in the Physical Metallurgy of Iron and Steel, deals chiefly with the properties of modern steels, their heat-treatment and correlation with micro-structure. Materials are subjected to numerous tests in the laboratory. As heat-treatment is a very important phase of this subject, lectures and laboratory work in pyrometry are separately arranged. On the non-ferrous side, there are special classes in the Metallurgy of Copper and non-ferrous alloys (including foundry and rolling-mill technique). The physical metallurgy of copper and other non-ferrous metals and alloys is dealt with in a series of lectures comprising an advanced



PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING AND TESTING LABORATORY,
CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

course. These lectures deal chiefly with the properties of the non-ferrous metals and alloys, and the changes effected by impurities and by mechanical and thermal treatment. In the laboratory, the use of testing machines is conjoint with that of the microscope. Defects and failures in practice are described, and methods of investigation suggested. An experimental electrically-driven rolling mill and a recuperative gas-fired furnace for high temperature melting have been recently installed. Approved modern methods of metallurgical analysis are taught on special evenings.

The subject of Metallography is also dealt with in a course of general lectures, accompanied by practical examination of metals and alloys under microscope. A special course of lectures and laboratory work in Metallurgy for Foundry Workers is held, while the requirements of students who are engaged in the local industries of electro-plating and metal colouring and bronzing, are met by a series of lectures and by laboratory experiments in a specially-equipped laboratory.

Students may qualify for a certificate in Metallurgy by attending classes under the conditions of the College scheme.

Mathematical Classes.

The classes in Mathematics are for those wishing to study Mathematics for its own sake, or for the purposes of acquiring a University degree in Science or Engineering, or for students who wish to acquire sufficient knowledge of mathematical principles to apply them usefully to problems they may meet with in engineering practice. For those students desirous of taking the external degree of such a University as London, there are complete courses in both Pure and Applied Mathematics, from Matriculation through Intermediate to the Senior classes, which cover sufficient ground for the Final Examination and the ordinary part of the Honours Examination. In addition, lectures are given during the summer on selected mathematical subjects. For students of the second type, classes in Practical Mathematics are arranged. These form part of the courses in engineering, and the student may acquire in three years a very considerable amount of knowledge of mathematical principles, and how those principles are applied to engineering problems.

Classes in Physics.

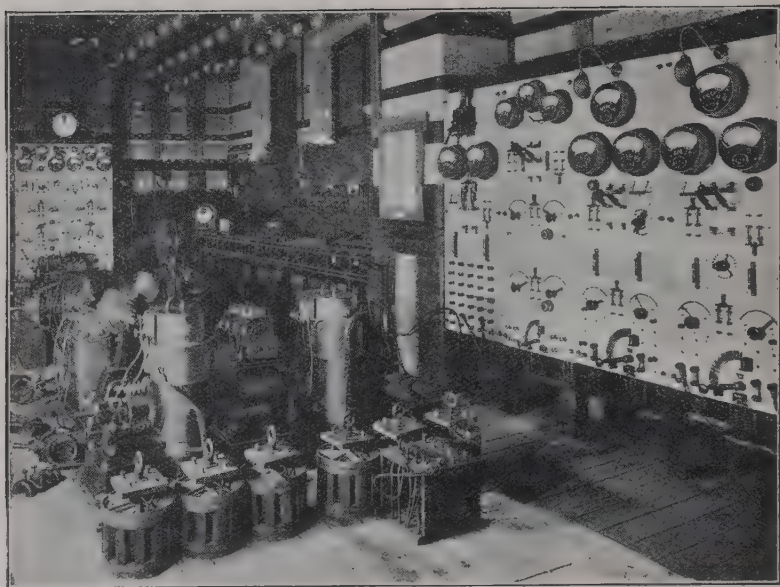
The classes in Physics are arranged for students wishing to take up the study of Physical Science either for the purpose of obtaining a University degree, or for use in the higher applications of science to industry.

Electrical Engineering Department.

Classes in the more important branches of Electrical Engineering have been grouped to form a well defined series of courses extending in some cases over five or six sessions which may be briefly referred to under the following groups :—

Electrical Technology, Electrical Trades, Radio-Telegraphy and kindred subjects.

National Certificates in Electrical Engineering have been established by the Board of Education in conjunction with the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Two types of certificates are awarded, and are known as Senior Certificates and Advanced Certificates respectively, and courses are held for the City and Guilds of London Institute's Final or Honours Grade Certificate in Electrical Engineering.



ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

Mechanical Engineering Department.

The courses in Engineering are arranged in two main groups, viz. :

- (a) Technology for students who are taking up the more academic side of the profession, such as designers, draughtsmen or testers.
- (b) Production courses for students whose business is mainly on the manufacturing side of industry.

The examinations for the National Certificates in Mechanical Engineering have been instituted by the Board of Education in conjunction with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The curriculum consists of five years' study divided into two parts, "Senior" and "Advanced."

Classes in Fitting and Turning, Mass Production, Machine Tool Work, and Precision Work, are arranged as pre-apprenticeship or pupilage courses, or as specialist courses, to meet the modern developments of industry. The complete course of instruction involves three years' evening attendance at the College. Combined day and evening courses of study are also arranged in this group.

Classes are held for the Matriculation, Intermediate and Final Examinations for B.Sc. Engineering (London), and for the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Automobile Engineers and Structural Engineers.

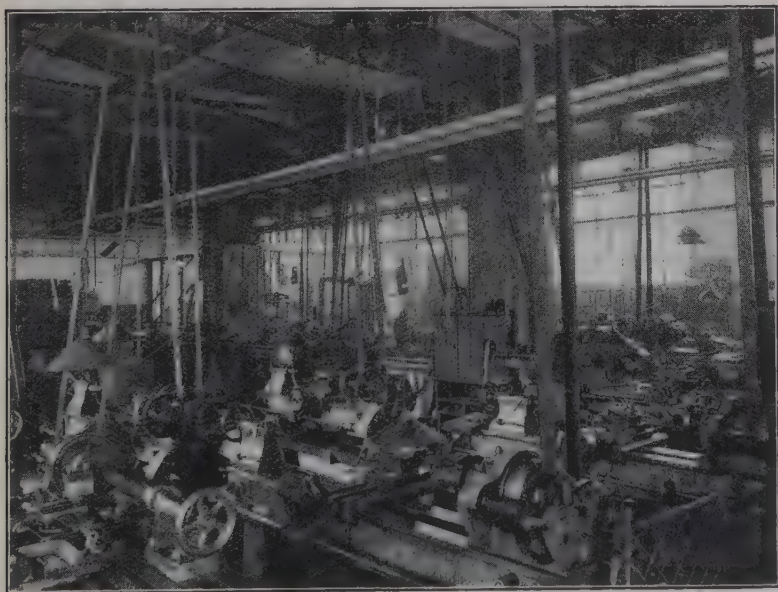
All persons interested in the courses held at the Birmingham Central Technical College, are invited to obtain a detailed syllabus from the Chief Education Officer, Margaret Street, Birmingham.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

The City of Birmingham Commercial College, which is under the control of the Education Committee, provides courses of instruction for all persons in the commercial professions, including bankers, accountants, secretaries, railway and other transport officials. Its classes are also open to all teachers and officials employed in the public services, central or municipal, to the commercial staffs of manufacturing firms, and to all persons engaged in industry or commerce. Courses are provided in the following departments : (a) English and Secretarial ; (b) Book-keeping, Accounting and Mathematics ; (c) Modern Foreign Languages ; (d) Economics, Finance and Social Science ; (e) Law and Transport ; (f) Insurance. Other courses include Economic Geography and Commercial Law, and specialised courses adapted to the commercial requirements of various industries, and to the needs of the commercial profession.

In addition to the courses on Railway Law and Practice, the Economics and Operation of Road Transport, Rights and Duties of Transport Undertakings, and Shipping Law and Practice, which though open to all classes of Transport students, are specially intended for candidates for the Institute of Transport Examinations ; a short course for junior students on Practical Importing and Exporting is held on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m.

The special attention of social workers, candidates for external university degrees, and teachers, is directed to the classes and lecture courses in the following subjects : History, Course III. ; Economics, Industrial History, The Economics of Manufacture and Commerce, Economic Geography, Accounts of Companies and Traders, Statistics, Taxation and Public Finance, Public Administration, Public Finance and Accounting, Modern Economic Development of the Empire, Economic and Political History of the Modern World. These courses will be found specially useful by candidates for the external degrees of B. Com. and B. Sc. (Econ.) of the University of London.



FITTING SHOP, CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

To meet the requirements of persons in Government and other public offices, who are candidates for the examinations of various professional bodies, classes have been arranged in the following subjects: Secretarial Practice, Public Finance and Accounting, Commercial Accounting, Industrial Law, Public Administration, Commercial Law.

The curriculum of the College includes Economics of Manufacture and Commerce, the Iron and Steel Industry, Wages and Industrial Remuneration Problems, Modern Economic Development of the Empire, Economic and Political History of the Modern World, and Property Management, have been arranged during the present session. The Students' Lecture Society meets in the Chamber of Commerce Buildings on certain Tuesday evenings during the session, while the French Club meets at the University on Friday evenings throughout the session and provides facilities for conversation, debates and lectures in French.

EVENING INSTITUTES.

Junior Institutes are intended to afford young people an opportunity of continuing their education after leaving the Day schools. Graduated courses of instruction extending over two years are provided, leading up to the more advanced work at the Adult Institutes and the Technical and Commercial Colleges.

As a rule, scholars who have passed Standards VII. or VIII. in the day schools, should be able to take the various First Year Courses, and possibly some may be able to take the Second Year Courses. The classification, however, will be made strictly in accordance with the actual attainment of each individual student. No student will be passed on to another and higher course unless he has an adequate knowledge of the preceding work.

No student under 17 years of age is admitted to the Adult Institutes unless he or she has attended for not less than four years at a Secondary School, produces a certificate of having satisfactorily attended a two years' course of study at a Junior Institute, or passes an educational test as to his or her fitness for admission.

The General Institutes, which are situated in certain outlying districts, provide facilities for students of all ages, and combine the features of the Junior and Adult Institutes.

The Senior Institutions are as follows: Birmingham Central Technical College, Aston Technical College, Handsworth Technical College, and the City of Birmingham Commercial College.

CENTRAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, MARGARET STREET.

The School comprises a Day and an Evening School, and in it complete training courses are provided for craftsmen, architects, general students, teachers and others. The instruction given to craftsmen is based on good craftsmanship, and workshops are provided for those trades of the City which need artistic skill and judgment. The Day School of Architecture, which is one of the few specially "recognized" Schools of Architecture, offers a complete training for those wishing to qualify as architects, and courses are also provided for builders and others connected with building. For those who, as a part of a general and liberal education, wish to widen their appreciation and ability in the arts and crafts, practical studies and lectures are arranged, and for those wishing to train as teachers of Arts and Crafts, not only is practical and theoretical training given, but also training in teaching.

The full-time day courses are intended for the training of draughtsmen, painters of the figure, portrait and still life, book illustrators, intending teachers of art, craftsmen, sons of employers, and others who will take responsible positions in industry. The courses cover various periods from three to five years.

Part-time day courses are intended for those already engaged in a trade. Two mornings and two evenings a week for three or more years are given to design, practical work, and special problems and processes.

A series of evening courses have been arranged for senior workers, apprentices, journeymen and others. Problems in drawing, design, craftwork, and the study of technical processes are included in all the courses occupying two or three evenings a week. Interested persons are invited to obtain a detailed prospectus from the Secretary to the School of Art, Margaret Street.

Day and Evening Schools of Architecture.

The Birmingham School of Architecture was founded to provide architectural students in the Midlands with a training which will form a proper basis for their future work as architects, and for qualifying them for entry into the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The general School course covers three years. A Fourth and Fifth year course is being started which will enable students to pass directly into the Associateship Class of the R.I.B.A. A Diploma is awarded by the School to students who, having completed the full three years' course, have passed the examination held at the School. This diploma carries with it a pass into the "Students' Class" of the R.I.B.A., being considered the equivalent of the Intermediate Examination at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Students who have had previous architectural training are admitted to the School, and can enter the first, second, or third year course direct according to their standard of efficiency.

The fee for the Day School is 30 guineas per session. All fees are payable on first attendance. Scholarships are granted under the Committee's Scheme, a copy of which may be had on application.

A Prospectus is issued for the School of Architecture giving fuller information. Copies may be had upon application.

There is in addition an evening school of architecture, which is arranged so that the course is completed in four years.

Drawing and Painting.

Classes and Courses are provided for draughtsmen, painters of the figure, portrait and still life, book illustrators, craftsmen in stained glass, colour wood-block, poster designers, etc. Special courses are provided for intending Teachers of Art.

Gold, Silver and General Metal Work, Jewellery, Enamelling and Engraving.

These courses include Silversmiths' and general metal work, raising and hammering, fitting, mounting, repoussé, etc. History of metal work and trade draughtsmanship, goldsmiths' and jewellers' work, enamelling, champlevé, cloisonné, limoges, enamel painting and basse taille, damascening, niello work, engraving and seal engraving, and heraldry.

Sculpture, Stone and Marble Carving, Modelling, Letter Cutting, Chasing, Hardwood and Ivory Carving.

Instruction includes the study of natural forms and ornament, the figure (male, female, and bust), letter cutting, stone, hardwood, and ivory carving, clay and wax modelling, and their respective applications in design.

Writing, Lettering and Illuminating.

The instruction comprises the practice of early and classic styles of formal writing, spacing and arrangement. The study of Roman, Gothic, Old English and Block Lettering and their application to such commercial purposes as posters, show cards, notices, labels, inscriptions, engraving, and all kinds of printing and advertisements. Illuminating, headings, initial letters, borders, line terminals and other decorative devices, the use of raised gilding and rubricating, and the colours and materials in general use.

Embroidery.

Students begin by working freely from real flowers, birds, butterflies and other natural objects, and develop their powers of fancy and design by arranging these pleasingly as decoration. Varieties of stitches are gradually introduced as well as various branches of embroidery, which include ecclesiastical embroidery, frame work, silk or wool embroidery, white work, cut work, reticella, filet lace, canvas work, appliqué work, also hand weaving.

Students may specialize in any of these branches according to their individual taste.

Dress Design and Practical Dressmaking.

The Course includes the designing of simple frocks, the draping of various stuffs on the model figure, pattern making and cutting, and the adapting of current fashions to the needs of individuals.

Stained Glass.

Day and evening classes are held in Stained and Painted Glass. Instruction is given both in designing and practical work, cutting, leading, fixing and cementing, and other branches of the craft. The workshop is well equipped with materials, a kiln for firing, and other necessary appliances.

Cabinet Making.

The workshop of this department was furnished by the Birmingham and District Furniture Manufacturers' Association with tools and a carefully chosen equipment, with a view to practical work of high standard and design. The aim of the School is to train suitable boys to enter the trade as apprentices, to supplement the workshop training of those already engaged in the trade, to give a knowledge of drawing and setting-out and some insight into the history and development of the cabinet maker's craft, and to contribute to the raising of the standard of craftsmanship.

The School of Printing.

There are full-time pre-apprenticeship classes for compositors, lithographic artists and designers which cover three years. In addition, there are part-time day courses for the sons of master printers and printers' managers and apprentices. Evening classes are held in compositors' work, letterpress machine work, monotype composing and casting, linotype work, lithographic artists' work, costing and estimating, bookbinding,

wood-engraving, etc. The Birmingham School of Printing is a well-equipped and efficiently organized institution, and printers and others interested are invited to obtain from the Head of the School further particulars of the courses briefly outlined above.

Painters' and Decorators' Classes.

A pre-apprenticeship full-time day course is arranged to give boys who are leaving day schools, such education as shall place them with advantage in a skilled craft. Half time is given to ordinary school subjects and half to practical work and drawing. There are also part-time day classes for boys already working in the trade, and also evening classes.

Branch School of Art.

There are branch Schools of Art at Bournville, Vittoria Street, Moseley, Aston, Handsworth, Rotton Park, Harborne, Small Heath, Erdington and Sparkhill. There are evening classes at all these institutions, while at Bournville and Aston there are also day courses.

At the Vittoria Street School and the Moseley Road School, Junior Art Schools have been organized where boys enter for a three years' full time training direct from the elementary schools. During this three years' training, the boys not only receive art and craft instruction, but continue to study general education subjects.

The Vittoria Street School is also a special school for Jewellers and Silversmiths, and courses are held in drawing, lettering, geometry, design for goldsmithing and silversmithing, modelling, diesinking, toolmaking, goldsmithing, mounting and setting, diamond mounting, silversmithing and spinning, engraving, damascening and inlay and enamelling. A series of free lectures open to the trade generally is given during the Session, under the auspices of the Birmingham Jewellers' and Silversmiths' Association.

THE SHUSTOKE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The Shustoke School was established by the Birmingham Corporation in 1868, and was under control of an Industrial School Committee appointed by the Council until 1st April, 1903, when the management of the School was taken over by the Education Committee. The School is certified by the Home Office as providing accommodation for 166 boys. The boys receive full time elementary education under trained and certificated teachers until they attain fourteen years of age, and then pass to one of the training departments in which they receive practical instruction. There are about 105 acres of surrounding land, and on this farming and gardening are carried out as part of the vocational training of the boys over fourteen. Tailoring, shoemaking, baking and cooking, carpentry and bricklaying are also taught.

In addition to the schoolroom instruction and the practical training in the trade departments, adequate provision is made for the physical training of the boys, cricket and football fields being available on the School estate, and the boys are encouraged to participate in outdoor games.

Up to 1919 a whole time officer was engaged to look after the boys when they left the school, but since that date this work has been undertaken by the Juvenile Employment and Welfare Department, which also supervises children who are discharged to Birmingham from other Industrial Schools.

In addition to the Shustoke School, the Committee have entered into arrangements with the managers of other Schools to receive Birmingham children, subject to payment of contributions for the maintenance of the children during detention:

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

The Editor acknowledges his indebtedness to Kelly's Directories Limited, of 186, Strand, London, W.C. 2, for permission to reprint from their Directory of Birmingham the following information:—

Hotels.

Albion (Fredk. Herbt. Ryder, propr.), 176, Edmund Street.
 Bullivant's Commercial (Stanislaus Dunworth), Carrs Lane and 49, High Street.
 City Hotel, John Bright Street. T.N., Midland 12.
 Dingley's (John Milward), 124, Moor Street, T.A., "Beans." T.N., Central 5954.
 Grand (The) Birmingham, Limited, Colmore Row.
 Guest House Hotel (The) (Jn. Jsph. Mattocks), 323, Bell Barn Road.
 Imperial Hotel (Trust Houses Limited), Temple Street.
 Lee's Commercial Hotel (Mrs. Emily L. Williams, proprietress), 24, Livery Street.
 Lyndhurst Private Hotel (Miss K. M. Rossiter, proprietress), 91, Kingsbury Road, Erdington.
 Mermaid (The) Leo Thomas Beighton, Stratford Road, Sparkhill.
 Midland (Louis M. Delaraye), New Street and Stephenson Street.
 New Inns, (John Macdonald), 42, Holyhead Road, Handsworth.
 New Inns Hotel (Rt. Edwd. East), 191 to 193, Bromsgrove Street.
 Oakfield House for Commercial (C. Rimell, proprietor), 214, Hagley Road.
 Plough and Harrow (Whittingham [Senior] Limited), 135, Hagley Road.
 Queen's and North Western Railway Hotel (Paul Vacher, manager), Stephenson Place and Stephenson Street.
 Stork (Harold Wallis), Corporation Street.
 Suffield's Hotel (Edgar Biddulph), Union Passage.
 Swan (Mrs. A. Butler), 148, New Street.
 The Ivydale (Mrs. Dorothy Cureton), 501, Coventry Road, Small Heath.
 White Horse (Edgar C. H. Oliver), 30, Congreve Street.
 Woolpack Hotel (Fredk. Wm. Butler), 8 and 9, Moor Street.

Hotels—Private.

Brown, Spenlove, 55, Hagley Road.
 Halliwell, Fredk. Wm., Hill House, 316, Church Hill, Hamstead Road, Handsworth.
 Hislop, Wm. Fredk., 208, Stratford Road
 Knibbs, Mrs. Florence, 23, Digbeth.
 Melrose (Geo. Howard Heaven, propr.), 47, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Norfolk Private Hotel (Mrs. E. J. Adcock, proprietress), 265, Hagley Road. T.N., Edgbaston 2484.
 Portland House Hotel (H. G. Chavasse, propr.), 221, Hagley Road.
 Rozelaar, Arnold J., 137, 145 and 164, Bristol Road.
 Soho Hall Hotel (C. Thomas, proprietor), Soho Avenue, Handsworth.
 Soobroy, Alfd. G., 2, Vicarage Road, Handsworth.
 Southfield Private Hotel, corner Pershore Road and Priory Road, (T.A., "Tip-Top, B'ham," T.N., South 1529), 1, Priory Road, Edgbaston.
 Webb, Mrs. Vincent, Mariemont, Westbourne Crescent, Edgbaston.

Hotels—Temperance.

Bath Temperance Hotel (Mrs. Helen Fisher), 104, Station Street.
 Cobden (Samuel Edward Short, managing director, George Frederick Bartleet, sec.), Corporation Street.
 Empire Commercial Hotel (Albt. Turner), 23 and 25, Hurst Street.
 Hen and Chickens (Birmingham Coffee House Co., Ltd., proprs, Samuel Edward Short, managing director, George Frederick Bartleet, sec.), 140, New Street.
 Langley Commercial Hotel (W. J. Mason, propr.), 485, Coventry Road.

Roof Garden Hotel (Ye Mecca Limited, proprs.), 9, John Bright Street.
 Victoria Hotel (E. L. Wilcox proprietor), (close to all stations, 80 rooms,
 elevator to all floors), Corporation Street. T.A., "Victoria Hotel,"
 T.N., Central 5720.
 Waverley (Albert Tuck), 10 and 11, New Meeting Street.
 Wilkins, 47, 48 and 49, Moor Street.
 Wrench, Charles Bertram, 20, Snow Hill.

Apartments.

Adams, Frank, 1, Springfield Road, King's Heath.
 Adams, Fredk. (boarding ho.), 26, 27 and 61, Wheeleys Road, Edgbaston.
 Aldridge, Mrs. Mary, 40, Bell Barn Road.
 Allarton, Mrs. Mary Ann, 76, Summer Hill Road.
 Alldridge, Mrs. Sarah, 150 and 156, Sladefield Road, Ward End.
 Arrowsmith, Mrs. Harriet, 56, Willows Road, Balsall Heath.
 Atkinson, Richd., 15, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Audinwood, Mrs. Sarah, 116, Belgrave Road.
 Bardell, Mrs. Catherine A., 43, George Street, Lozells.
 Barlow, Mrs. Emily, 46, Wood Street, Ladywood.
 Barnett, Alfred, 1A, Coleshill Street.
 Bass, Mrs. Jane, 227, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Bates, Mrs. Matilda, 52, Holloway Head.
 Bayley, Mrs. Mary, 6, Bristol Road.
 Beetlestone, Miss Annie, 124, Alexandra Road.
 Bellew, Davis, (boarding ho.), 11, St. Martin's Placc.
 Belton, A., 67, Ombersley Road, Sparkbrook.
 Bennett, Mrs. Ada Jane, 373, Moseley Road.
 Berrington, Mrs. Frances, 17, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston.
 Betts, Mrs. Eliza, 3, Pershore Road.
 Betts, Thos., 85, Belgrave Road.
 Birch, Mrs. Annie, 18, Alexandra Road.
 Blackburn, Mrs. Mary L., 23, St. James' Road, Edgbaston.
 Bloxham, Mrs. Mabel, 19 and 20, Charlotte Road, Edgbaston.
 Borgen, Mrs. Matilda (boarding ho.), 34 and 36, Duchess Road, Edgbaston.
 Bradbury, Miss Edith, 155, Varna Road.
 Bradley, Mrs. Eliza, 3, Priory Road.
 Breeden, Miss Clare (boarding ho.), 12, Church Lane, Handsworth.
 Brettell, Mrs. Gertrude, 27, 28 and 29, Summer Hill Terrace.
 Brewer, Miss Catherine, 10, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Briely, Miss F., 84, Glover's Road, Small Heath.
 Broom, Mrs. Katherine, 276, Moseley Road.
 Broughton, Mrs. Rosa B., 178, Soho Hill.
 Burt, Mrs. Gertrude, 32, Belgrave Road.
 Burton, Misses Leila and Ethel M., 214, Mary Street, Balsall Heath.
 Carter, Miss Annie, 178, Bath Row.
 Carter, Mrs. Selina, 130, Holloway Head.
 Cartwright, Mrs. Harriett Eliz., 140A, Frederick Road, Aston.
 Chambers, Mrs. Annie L., Stockfield Hall, Stockfield Road, Acock's Green.
 Chappell, Alfd. (boarding ho.), 34 and 36, Kingsbury Road, Erdington.
 Chick, Mrs. Lizzie, 136, Soho Hill.
 Clare, Mrs. Lucy, 298, Wheeler Street.
 Clark, Miss E. W., 61, Bath Row.
 Clark, Mrs. Eliza, 141, Bowyer Road, Saltley.
 Clark, William, 12, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Clarke, Chas., 16, Noel Road.
 Clarke, Mrs. Rosaline, 36, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Clarke, Mrs. Sarah Ann, 495, Bristol Road, Bournbrook, Selly Oak.
 Glee, Miss Bessie, 41, Braithwaite, Road, Sparkbrook.
 Clews, Mrs. Eliza, 114, Bath Row.
 Cohen, Mrs. Fanny, 16, Alexandra Road.
 Collins, Mrs. Annie, 131, Cape Hill, Smethwick.
 Condon, Mrs. Eliza., 42, King Edward Road, Moseley.
 Conn, Mrs. Kate, 1, Alexandra Road.
 Cope, Mrs. Annie (boarding ho.), 57, Lee Crescent, Edgbaston.
 Cotton, Robt. Hy. Chas., 78, Summer Hill Road.
 Cottrell, Miss Rosa, 2, Pershore Road.
 Creese, Miss Letitia, 1 and 2, Hagley Grove, Hagley Road, and 107 Hagley Road.

Crook, Frederick, 32, Sutton Street.
 Crump, Mrs. Mary Ann, 51, Willows Road, Balsall Heath.
 Crutchley, Mrs. Rose, 134, Belgrave Road.
 Cull, Mrs. Emma, 340, Shaftmoor Lane, Sparkhill.
 Cure, Mrs. Nora, 17, Lee Crescent, Edgbaston.
 Cutmore, Mrs. Bessie, 9, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Danks, Miss Florence Gertrude, 878, Pershore Road.
 Darling, Miss Ethel, 1, Arthur Place, Summer Hill Terrace.
 Darsley, Mrs. Eliz., 47, Stirling Road.
 Dauncey, Mrs. Gertrude, 76, Sycamore Road, Smethwick.
 Davies, Mrs. Jessie, 154, South Road, Erdington.
 Davies, Thos., 52, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Davis, Miss Emily Sarah, 39, Bath Row.
 Dawkins, Miss Nora, 140, Hunter's Road, Hockley.
 Day, Mrs. Lydia, 60, Bath Row.
 Dean, Miss Minnie D., 350, Albert Road, Aston
 de Salis, Misses Hannah Louisa and Jessie Mabel (boarding ho.), 40, Booth
 Street, Handsworth.
 De Saulles, Arthur G., 56, Bath Row.
 Dix, Mrs. Emma (boarding ho.), 224, St. Saviour's Road, Saltley.
 Donnaetta, Charles, 55 Bath Row.
 D' Ore, Cola, 15, Pershore Road.
 Dowling, Mrs. Mary, 202, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Downing, Miss Florence, 120, Bath Row.
 Downing, Jas., 37, Bath Row.
 Draysey, Mrs. Fredk., 34, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Dudley, Mrs. Lily, 581, Moseley Road.
 Dukes, Mrs. Kate, 186, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Dunwell, Mrs. Alice, 24, Belgrave Road.
 Dyer, William, 161, Bath Row.
 Edwards, Mrs. Annie, 108, Soho Hill.
 Edwards, John Oliver, 118, Bath Row.
 Fawkes, Mrs. Ada, 112, Bath Road.
 Feakin, Mrs. Eleanor, 92, Bath Row.
 Fellows, Miss Alice, 14, Minstead Road, Erdington.
 Fisher, Mrs. Jean, 134, Walford Road, Sparkbrook.
 Ford, Mrs. Mary, 2A, Bowyer Road, Saltley.
 Ford, Mrs. Ruth, (boarding ho.), 29, Edmund Road, Saltley.
 Foster, Frederick Fras., 18, Belgrave Road.
 Fowke, Mrs. Ada, 108, Belgrave Road.
 Fox, Miss Sophy, 196, Bristol Road.
 Franklin, Miss Julie, 47, Kendal Road, Sparkbrook.
 Fricker, Miss Mary, 135, George Road, Erdington.
 Froome, John Henry, 112, Holloway Head.
 Garner, Ernest, 83A, Bristol Street.
 Gibbons, Mrs. Maisie, 63, Pershore Road.
 Giles, Mrs. Mary, 33, Gladstone Road, Sparkbrook.
 Goode, Hy., 3, Arthur Place, Summer Hill Terrace.
 Goodman, Rt., 125, Belgrave Road.
 Goodman, Mrs. Rose, 39, Alexandra Road.
 Grant, Geo. Ladbroke, 58, Belgrave Road.
 Green, Alfred, 200, Great Colmore Street.
 Green, Miss Alice Mabel, 93, Hagley Road.
 Green, Mrs. Jane, 54, Holloway Head.
 Greenway, Thomas, 116, Holloway Head.
 Greenwood, Chas. (boarding ho.), 3, Frances Road, Handsworth.
 Grocutt, Mrs. Edith, 134, Bath Row.
 Grosvenor, Arth., 248, Pershore Road.
 Grove, Mrs. E. M. 25, Broughton Road, Handsworth.
 Hadley, Mrs. Maria, 139, Wellhead Lane, Perry Barr.
 Halldon, Wm. Hy. (boarding ho.), 264, Alum Rock Road, Saltley.
 Hampton, Arth., J., 58, Bath Row.
 Hancock, Miss Annie, 130, Trinity Road, Birchfield.
 Hancock, Mrs. Annie E. (boarding ho.), 17, College Road, Saltley.
 Hancox, Harry, 79, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Harold, Geo. Hy., 54, Princess Road.
 Harper, Miss Fanny, 160, Soho Hill.
 Harper, Miss Sarah J., 20, Carlyle Road, Edgbaston.

Harrigan, Frank, 132 and 134A, Belgrave Road.
 Harris, Mrs. Alice, 138A, Albert Road, Aston.
 Harris, Mrs. Elsie, 176, Bath Row.
 Harris, Mrs. Eva, 19, Wood End Road, Erdington.
 Hart, Alfd., 146, Belgrave Road.
 Harvett, Mrs. Maria, 117, Belgrave Road.
 Hawkes, Mrs. Minnie, 5, Wellington Road, Edgbaston.
 Haynes, Miss Mary, 62, Bath Row.
 Heath, Mrs. Jessie Matilda, 13, Tudor Road, Moseley.
 Heeley, Mrs. Sarah, 174, Bath Row.
 Hendrie, Mrs. A. M., 151, College Road, Moseley.
 Hennessy, Mrs. Mary (boarding ho.), 22, Holyhead Road, Handsworth.
 Hill, Harold Bliss, 262, Stratford Road.
 Hinsley, Mrs. Jeannie, 46, Princess Road.
 Hodges, Mrs. Lilian, 126, Pershore Road.
 Hodgson, Mrs. Catherine, 23, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Holbrook, Mrs. Mary E., 86, Yardley Road, Small Heath.
 Horton, Mrs. Mabel (boarding ho.), 43, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Hughes, Mrs. Matilda M., 255, Monument Road.
 Hughes, Mrs. Nellie (boarding ho.), 23, College Road, Saltley.
 Hull, Miss Martha A., 70, Sampson Road, Sparkbrook.
 Hurley, Mrs. Eliz., 44, Bath Row.
 Hutchinson, Mrs. Sarah, 4, Wellington Road, Edgbaston.
 Hyde, Mrs. Eliz. (boarding ho.), 12, Ralph Road, Saltley.
 Hyde, Miss Emmie, 95, Hagley Road.
 Jefferson, Mrs. Betsy, 141, George Road, Erdington.
 Jeffs, Fredk. Thos., 86, Bath Row.
 Johnson, Ernest, 138, Varna Road.
 Jones, Mrs. Annie, 77, Walford Road.
 Jones, Miss Clara, 259, Burbury Street, Lozells.
 Jones, Mrs. Emily, 10, Princess Road.
 Jones, Mrs. Florence Jane, 11, Bristol Road.
 Jones, Mrs. Mary J., 33A, Linden Road, Bournville.
 Jordan, Isaiah, 487, Bristol Road, Bournbrook, Selly Oak
 King, Mrs. Caroline, 44, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 King, Mrs. Charlotte, 97, Hagley Road.
 King, Saml. I., 73, Hagley Road.
 Knapman, Miss, 19, Charlotte Road, Edgbaston.
 Knibbs, Mrs. Florence, 13, Claremont Road, Soho Hill.
 Knox, Arth. Blackwood, 53, Stirling Road.
 Lane, Miss Ellen E., 88, Alexandra Road.
 Leeman, John, 122, Bath Row.
 Lindsay, David, 229, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Llewellyn, Mrs. E., 7, Lee Bank Road.
 Lloyd, Mrs. Emmeline, 4, Princess Road.
 Long, Mrs. Charlotte, 74, Lodge Road, Hockley.
 Lovell, Mrs. Sarah Anne, 32, Cavendish Road.
 Loxton, Miss Clara, 7, Bournbrook Road, Selly Hill, Selly Oak.
 McDonald, Wm., 272, Gt. Colmore Street.
 McKenna, Mrs. Christina, 16, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 McNerlin, Mrs. Ellen, 24, Sabell Road, Smethwick.
 Maher, Mrs. Amy Gertrude, 6, Pershore Road.
 Mantle, Mrs. Eliz., 31, Sabell Road, Smethwick.
 Marston, Frederick, 158, Soho Hill.
 Massey, William, 48, Bath Row.
 Messenger, Geo. Wm. (boarding ho.), 107, Tindal Street, Balsall Heath.
 Michell, Mrs. G., 46 and 47, Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston.
 Miller, Reginald (boarding ho.), 127, 129 and 131 and 132, Belgrave Road.
 Miller, Mrs. Sarah Jane, 35, Chain Walk, Lozells.
 Molton, Miss Annie, 72, Pershore Road.
 Moore, Thos. Fredk., 266, Stratford Road.
 Morley, Miss Ellen, 120, Varna Road.
 Neal, Mrs. A., 314, Balsall Heath Road.
 Nicholas, Mrs. Annie, 172, Bath Row.
 North, Mrs. M., 29, Glover's Road, Small Heath.
 Osborne, Eric Wilfred, 74, Varna Road.
 Palmer, Mrs. Louisa, 47, Main Street, Sparkbrook.
 Parker, Mrs. Hannah, 347, Albert Road, Aston.

Parkes, Bert, 29, Hillaries Road, Erdington.
 Pearce, Mrs. Barbara Maud, 19, Thomas Street, Aston.
 Perry, Mrs. Annie, 205, Slade Road, Erdington.
 Phillips, Mrs. Minnie, 74, Bath Row.
 Pilcher, Mrs. Nellie (boarding ho.), 80, Bowyer Road, Saltley.
 Pimley, Mrs. Alice (boarding ho.), 248, Edward Road, Balsall Heath.
 Pizany, Mrs. Fanny, 26, Wills Street, Lozells.
 Pollard, Mrs. J. A., 40, Gladstone Road, Erdington.
 Pond, Mrs. Margt. (boarding ho.), 13, St. Albans Road, Moseley.
 Powell, Mrs. Alice, 97, Wills Street, Lozells.
 Price, Charles Wm., 22, George Street, Lozells.
 Reeves, Wm. Alfd., 2, Arthur Place, Summer Hill Terrace.
 Reyner, Miss Sarah, 216, Mary Street, Balsall Heath.
 Reynolds, Wm., 4, Hartington Road, Lozells.
 Richards, Misses Florence E. and Catherine A., 120, Anderton Park Road, Moseley.
 Richards, Miss Phoebe, 212, Birchfield Road, Birchfield.
 Ridgway, Mrs. Kate, 192, Stratford Road.
 Ridley, Wm. Albt., 89, Princess Road.
 Roberts, Mrs. Flora, 65, Pershore Road.
 Rogers, Mrs. Mabel F. R., 88, Fentham Road, Erdington.
 Russell, Mrs. A. J., 244, Frederick Road, Aston.
 Russell, Miss Jennie, 17, Thomas Street, Aston.
 Russell, Mrs. Mary, 118, Belgrave Road.
 Rymell, Mrs. Emma, 123, Bristol Street.
 Sadler, Mrs. E. M. 75 Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Sadler, Mrs. Eliza (boarding ho.), 41, College Road, Saltley.
 Sansom, Mrs. Emily, 59, Witton Road, Aston.
 Saunders, Geo., 22, St. Luke's Road.
 Scott, Mrs. Kate, 205, Monument Road.
 Shaw, William, 84, Bath Row.
 Shelley, Jn. Weston, 197, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Shotton, Mrs. Ruth, 130, Pershore Road.
 Shrimpton, Miss Laura, 35, South Road, Hockley.
 Smart, Mrs. Mary, 10, Hazelbeach Road, Saltley.
 Smith, Mrs. Jean, 112, Springfield Road, King's Heath.
 Smith, Mrs. Sarah Eliz., 858, Pershore Road.
 Smith, Wm., 240, Pershore Road.
 Solomon, Mrs. Mary Louisa, 54, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Spiers, Barney W., 34, Bath Row.
 Stephens, Mrs. Emily Annie, 12, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Stirzaker, Mrs. Martha (boarding ho.), 80, Edmund Road, Saltley.
 Stockwell, Arth. Jn. (boarding ho.), 17, Holyhead Road, Handsworth.
 Storer, Miss Frances, 221, Gt. Colmore Street.
 Strafford, Mrs. Betsy, 8, George Road, Erdington.
 Suckling, Wm., 11, Claremont Road, Soho Hill.
 Sutton, Mrs. Louisa, 166, Bath Row.
 Taylor, Mrs. E., 8, Alexandra Road.
 Taylor, Mrs. E. P., 66, Bath Row.
 Taylor, Fredk. Jas., 73, Varna Road.
 Taylor, Mrs. Lilian, 84, Grantham Road, Sparkbrook.
 Taylor, Mrs. Mary (boarding ho.), 95, Bowyer Road, Saltley.
 Theobald, Mrs. Ada, 34, Wood Street, Ladywood.
 Thompson, Miss Mary Ann, 203, Mary Vale Road, Bournville.
 Tims, Frederick, 88, Bath Row.
 Tinley, Mrs. Helen, 13, Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Todman, Richard, 49 and 50 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston.
 Trebble, Mrs. Daisy, 5, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Underwood, Mrs. Harriet, 7, Dolman Road, Aston.
 Viney, Mrs. Alfd. Watson, 37, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook.
 Wadsworth, Mrs. Lilian, 74, Pershore Road.
 Wagstaff, John, 62, Islington Row.
 Wakefield, Mrs. Harriet, 10, Algernon Road.
 Walker, Miss Mary Eliz., 22 Francis Road, Edgbaston.
 Walters, Miss Annie Maude, 46, Queen's Road, Erdington.
 Walters, Mrs. E., 32, Sabell Road, Smethwick.
 Ward, Mrs. Emily, 229, Mansel Road, Small Heath.
 Warwick, Miss Fanny, 10, Gladstone Road, Sparkbrook.

Watson, Miss Beatrice Isabella, 181, Lee Bank Road.
 Watson, Harry, 31, City Road.
 Watts, Miss Amy, 33, Harbury Road, Balsall Heath.
 Whitehead, Mrs. Florence (boarding ho.), 27, Frances Road, Handsworth.
 Wilkes, Mrs. Harriett, 351, Green Lane, Small Heath.
 Wilkinson, Mrs. Maude, 124, Hunter's Road, Hockley.
 Willett, Wm. 137, Belgrave Road.
 Willetts, Mrs. Elizabeth, 102, Bath Row.
 Williams, Miss Esther, 67, Fernley Road, Sparkhill.
 Wilmot, Miss Florence, 250, Moseley Road.
 Willows, Miss Edith Ann, 57, Witton Road, Aston.
 Wills, Mrs. Louisa, 17, Balsall Heath Road, Edgbaston.
 Winkles, Edwd., 167, Aston Lane, Perry Barr.
 Wiseman and McStay Misses, 111, Anderton Park Road, Moseley.
 Wolverson, Miss Eliz., 75 Summer Road, Edgbaston.
 Wood, Miss Emily, 21, Bristol Road.
 Workman, Miss Hilda B., 24 and 26, Harborne Road, Edgbaston.
 Worsey, Mrs. Mary Ann, 51, Sutton Street, Aston.
 Wren, Mrs. Clara, 207, Villa Street, Hockley.
 Wright, Mrs. Susannah, 1, Nqel Road.
 Young Women's Christian Association, (Miss J. Hartley, sec.), 42 and 43,
 Snow Hill.
 Young, Fred H., 11, School Road, Moseley.

LIST OF BYE-LAWS

in operation in the City of Birmingham, arranged in order of introduction.
Dates in brackets indicate part repeal, amendment, or addition.

Title.	Date.	Title.	Date.
Lime Kilns, Nuisances from	1864	Street Traffic..	1914
New Streets and Buildings		Cemeteries and Burial	
(1887) (1910) (1914)	1876	Grounds (1919) (1927)	1915
Signboards, Emblems, and		Underground Rooms	1915
Projections	1886	Advertisements in Streets	1915
Water, Waste, etc.	1887	Street Collections	1917
Whirligigs, Swings, etc.	1893	Searchlights in Streets	1920
Porters, Drivers, and Carriers	1895	Employment of Children and	
Locomotives on Highways		Young Persons	1920
(1902) (1905)	1896	House Refuse (collection)	1921
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-		Houses Let in Lodgings	1922
shops	1901	Disorderly Behaviour on	
Education, Attendance at		School Premises	1922
School	1901	Street Refuges, "Keep to the	
Locomotives (1905)	1902	Left"	1922
Public Libraries (1922)	1902	Writing on Roadways—	
Cabmen's Shelters	1904	Deposit of Waste Paper in	
Offensive Trades	1905	Streets	1923
Hackney Carriages (1924)		Covering Meat in Transit	
(1925) (1927)	1907	through Streets	1923
Regulations under Warwick-		Licensing of Street Hawkers	1923
shire (Control of Dogs)		Tramways	1923
Orders	1907	Omnibuses (One-man 'bus)	1923
Stage Carriages (Omnibuses,		Traffic outside Smithfield	
etc.)	1907	Market order	1924
Common Lodging Houses	1909	Public Baths	1925
Nuisances (Snow, Filth, etc.)	1909	Luggage Porters or Light	
Tents, Vans, etc. (used for		Porters	1925
human habitation)	1909	Cannon Street (One-way	
Dogs, Wearing of Collars	1909	Traffic Order)	1925
Rag, Bone, and Skin Mer-		Motor Hackney Carriages	1925
chants	1909	Parks, Public Walks, and	
Sale of Coal and Tare Weight		Places of Public Resort or	
Regulations (1896)	1909	Recreation (1927)	1925
Markets and Fairs and Market		Allotment Rules	1926
Tolls	1909	Control of Dogs at Night	
Public Slaughter Houses	1909	(Regulation)	1926
Private Slaughter Houses		Street Hawkers and Pro-	
(1910)	1909	hibited Areas	1926
Knackers' Yards	1909	Holding on to Moving	
Fire Escape in Factories	1911	Vehicles	1927
Registries for Female Servants	1912	Union Street (One-way	
Edgbaston Street (One-way		Traffic Order)	1927
Traffic Order)	1912	Maternity Homes	1927
Regulating Traffic, etc. (1922)		Overhead Wires and Appara-	
(1927)	1914	tus	1927
Lights on Vehicles	1914	Standing Vehicles in Central	
Good Rule and Government	1914	Streets	1928

Prior to 1883 there were a number of Acts of Parliament dealing with local improvements. In 1883 came the Birmingham Corporation (Consolidation) Act. Since that there have been Corporation Acts in 1899, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1912, 1914, 1919, etc., together with many Provisional Orders, etc.

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